

Huskers Illustrated

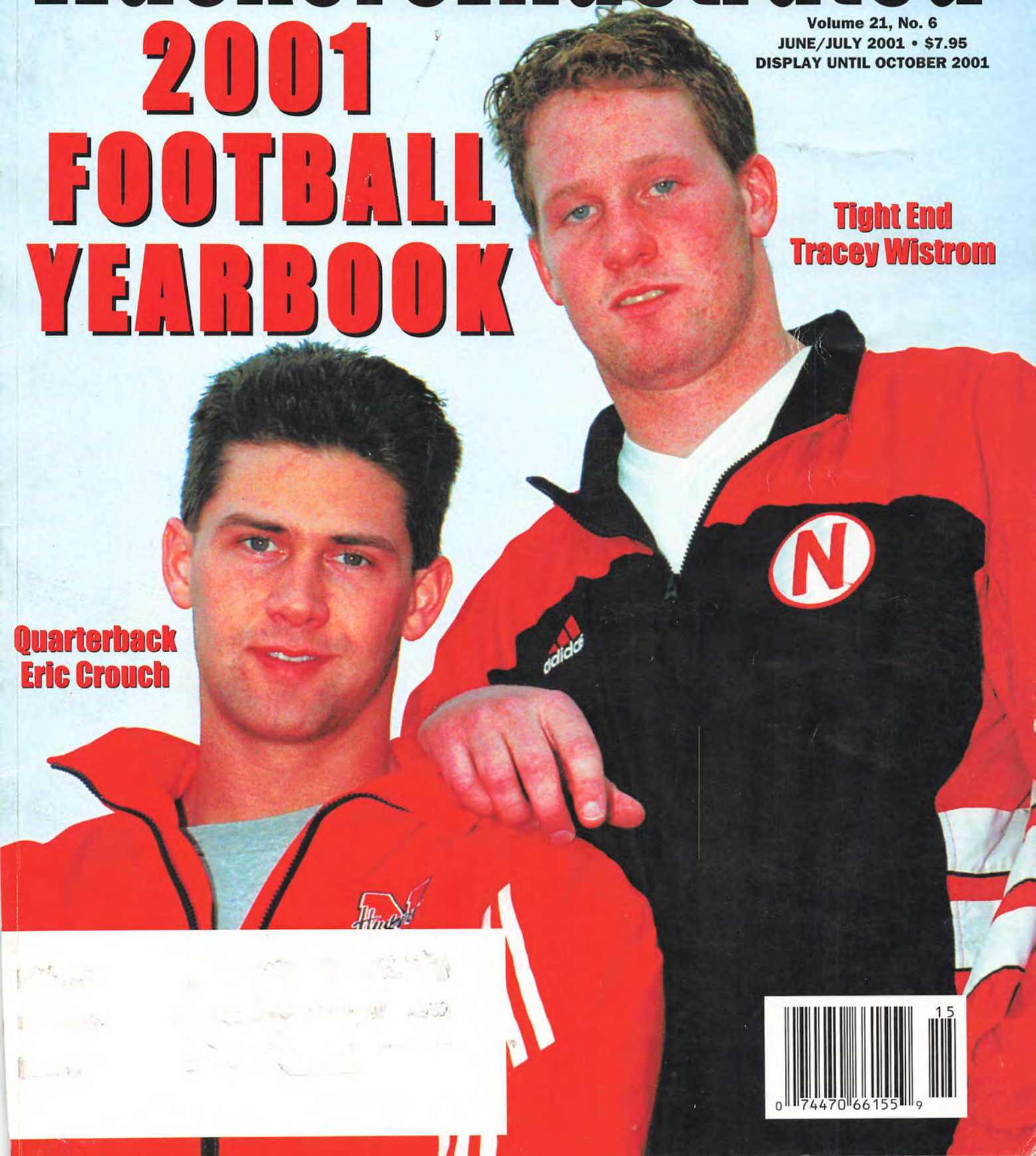
2001

FOOTBALL YEARBOOK

Volume 21, No. 6
JUNE/JULY 2001 • \$7.95
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**Quarterback
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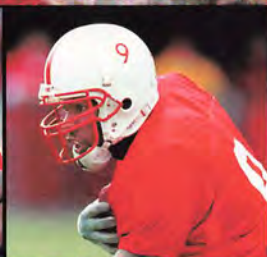
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Lasting Impression

Crouch, Husker teammates face long road to Pasadena



Brian Hill

COLLEGE FOOTBALL fans (and journalists) often point to a player on another team as one who seems like he's been at that school umpteen years.

More often than not, that player is a highly publicized star or at least has had his best performances against the team that fan supports.

At a recent gathering of college sports publishers, a representative of a Florida publication asked about Nebraska's prospects for the coming season. "Who do they have at quarterback?" he asked.

"Eric Crouch will be back as the starter," I replied.

"He's STILL there? It seems like he's been there forever."

The conversation shifted to Nebraska's schedule, which I dutifully recited. There were smirks at the table when Troy State was mentioned.

"With that schedule, and all the tough games at home, they should go to Pasadena," the Florida gentleman said, looking ahead to the Jan. 3, 2002, national championship game at the Rose Bowl.

"They've got a chance," I said. "Fourteen games is a long season."

Yes and yes.

With the addition of the Pigskin Classic game against Texas Christian on Aug. 25 in Lincoln and a potential trip to Irving, Texas, for the Big 12 Championship game Dec. 1, it will be an extremely long road if the Huskers are to make it to Pasadena.

But eight of those 14 games would be in the friendly confines of Memorial Stadium, where Nebraska has won 13

straight games and is 18-1 under Coach Frank Solich. The Huskers are 81-3 at home the last 13 years, losing to two teams that went on to win a share of the national championship (Colorado in 1990 and Washington in 1991) and to Texas in 1998.

Defending national champion Oklahoma and defending Big 12 North winner Kansas State both come to Lincoln, as does Notre Dame.

The Irish will be visiting Lincoln for the first time since 1948, when the defending national champions, coached by Nebraska native Frank Leahy, got the best of the Huskers 44-13.

Contributing editor Mike Babcock's look back at that game is one of the many feature stories in our 2001 Football Yearbook.

You'll find previews of the Irish, the Sooners and all of Nebraska's opponents.

Our package on the Big 12 Conference includes a review of the 2000 season and pages of information previewing the upcoming 2001 campaign.

Obviously, there's a plethora of stories, photos and information on the Huskers, including position-by-position breakdowns, capsules of top players and much, much more.

In the lead-in story to our Husker package, members of the Blackshirts say they were motivated in the off-season by the unusually high numbers posted by opposing offenses in 2000. They expect those numbers to improve considerably in 2001.

We also have a look at Nebraska's awards candidates, including guard Toniau Fonoti, cornerback Keyuo Craver, and the subjects of our cover — tight end Tracey Wistrom and Mr. Crouch.

Yes, he's still here. ■



Huskers Illustrated

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Looking For Leaders

Coaches recognize how important peer pressure can be



Mike BABCOCK

THE WRITERS who regularly attend two-a-day practices during the fall always speculate on which players will be elected team captains. It's a pleasant diversion, as well as one with a high degree of accuracy. The group consensus is rarely off by more than one, if any.

The rate of success isn't necessarily based on insight, however. Anyone who is around the team over the course of time can usually identify a majority of the team's leaders.

They're obvious.

Occasionally, there has been a surprise captain. But no one lately comes to mind.

Certain guidelines can be followed when predicting captains, such as: The interior offensive line will always elect one of its own. Nebraska's captains have included an interior offensive lineman every season except one since 1982 — the last year of two captains. The exception was 1993.

Last season two interior offensive linemen were among six captains. Guard Russ Hochstein and tackle Jason Schwab both were granted the responsibility, and honor, of leading the team.

Two offensive linemen also were captains in 1994: Zach Wiegert and Rob Zatechka.

Last season's six captains were the most-ever for the Cornhuskers. Their previous high was five, in 1998 and 1995. Otherwise, they have typically had four captains since the mid-1980s.

From 1962 — Bob Devaney's first year as head coach — until 1982, Nebraska had only two captains, one offense and one defense. Tom Osborne doubled the total in 1983 and never returned to two, although there were only three from 1984 through 1987. A fourth was elected each game in 1986.

The increased number of captains has paralleled an increased awareness of the importance of leadership, dramatically illustrated in 1997 when Grant Wistrom and Jason Peter decided against leaving early for the NFL in favor of returning to pursue a national championship.

Their resolve was essential to that team's title success, a fact regularly noted by Osborne.

Leaders have always been important, of course. And coaches still retain authority based on their control of playing time, if not force of character. But most successful teams allow for player involvement now, under the premise that peer pressure can be a motivator of comparable worth.

In many ways, Wistrom and Peter drove the 1997 team harder than Osborne did. They also pushed their teammates during the summer, a crucial preparation time when the NCAA precludes coaches from even watching players in voluntary workouts much less supervising them.

That's where things stand now for Coach Frank Solich's fourth team. Which seniors will step into leadership roles for the 2001 season "becomes identifiable to our players as they go through the off-season program," Solich said following the release of the post-spring depth chart in late April.

"I feel comfortable with the level of potential leadership on this team. I think you've got to have leaders that maybe lead by action. But I think you've got to have a few verbal leaders, too."

Solich pointed to Mike Brown, a captain in 1999, as the embodiment of both. He "verbalized it and also did it," said Solich. "To have a good combination, I think, is what you're after."

Even though Solich saw that combination in players during the spring, he declined to identify any of them, choosing to wait until the end of two-a-days, after the captains have been named. He didn't want to prejudice what will, and should, be a natural selection process.

As an outsider and observer, I'm under no such constraint. Players aren't likely to take offense at what I say. So here is early speculation on which players will be elected captains for 2001. It's not as difficult as it would be some seasons simply because there aren't a lot of seniors.

And I'm assuming there will be six captains again.

On offense, Dave Volk will represent the line, although Jon Rutherford would be a good choice, too. The Cornhuskers don't have a more selfless, or more versatile, player than Rutherford.

Tight end Tracey Wistrom will follow his brother Grant as a captain, something that has happened only three times before, with Mike Keeler (1983) and Andy Keeler (1988), Erik Wiegert (1991) and Zach Wiegert (1994), and Christian Peter (1995) and Jason Peter (1997).

And Eric Crouch will be the first quarterback to be elected captain since 1991. Mickey Joseph was Nebraska's last quarterback-captain. In fact, only

three other quarterbacks have been captains since 1982: Gerry Gdowski (1989), Steve Taylor (1988) and Turner Gill (1983). But that's probably not as unusual as it might seem, considering how often the starting quarterback hasn't been a senior.

On defense, the secondary will get two, cornerback Keyuo Craver and safety Dion Booker, with tackle Jeremy Slechta the other. Slechta tried to be a leader during spring practice. But "to tell you the truth, I'm still getting comfortable with it," he said. "The thing is, I'm not real vocal."

"As for on the field, working hard and doing everything at top speed, I feel like I can do that. All that stuff's no problem. It's something I'm going to do either way. Leading by example, I guess, is kind of my strong suit. Leading vocally is where I'm struggling. I'm just not used to saying stuff."

Slechta's concern is not out of the ordinary. Being assertive with one's peers is difficult, and the tendency is for underclassmen to leave the job to seniors. That's not to say underclassmen won't shoulder leadership responsibilities this fall. And the Cornhuskers will need such involvement.

"I think as coaches, we're satisfied with where this team is at right now," Solich said in late April. "Where we'll be at as far as the level of leadership remains to be seen. That's always the case."

Maybe so. But you can be sure he and his assistants have a pretty good idea. ■



Mike Brown "verbalized it and also did it."

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football, you know. Wait
a minute, no there isn't.



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New Faces In New Places

*Four young Huskers fare well
in spring auditions at different positions*



**Curt
McKEEVER**

MANAIA BROWN, T.J. Hollowell, Trevor Johnson and Lannie Hopkins all played a version of musical chairs with the Cornhuskers this spring. The major difference in this game was all four walked away with the cake.

Those four emerged from the 15 days of drills as the biggest winners in Nebraska's try-a-new-position sweepstakes.

In a span that amounts to merely a short chapter in their NU history book, three of those players managed to prove themselves worthy of a No. 2 spot at their position on the post-spring depth chart.

Imagine what could happen after they get 29 more practices.

Hopkins, a 6-foot-2, 205-pound redshirt freshman might have been the story of the spring after switching from weak-side linebacker to rover. First of all, it's rare for a linebacker at Nebraska to try his hand in the secondary. And it's even more rare that he'll have an immediate impact.

Hopkins made one.

"Regardless of his technique or his responsibility on the play, you often see Lannie around the football," said defensive coordinator Craig Bohl.

Consider that the starting rover at NU has led the Huskers in tackles five of the last seven seasons and you get a better understanding for what Bohl is feeling.

Hopkins heads into fall listed behind Dion Booker, who's also the No. 1 free safety. If Booker ends up playing there, we'll know Hopkins has done some more convincing.

Closer to the defensive front is the sophomore Hollowell, who switched from weakside to middle linebacker. At 6-1, 220, he'll never be confused with a Dick Butkus type. Then again, Butkus never clocked a 4.5 in the 40-yard dash, either.

Hollowell will start the fall behind Jamie Burrow, and it won't be a case of Nebraska coaches not sure of his readiness to play. With Burrow out most of spring with a pulled hamstring muscle, Hollowell showed off his athleticism and then came through with a six-tackle effort in the Red-White game.

No doubt, the work up front by Brown and Johnson helped free up some lanes.

Brown, a freshman from Salt Lake City who delayed his enrollment at NU until January while meeting NCAA eligibility standards, moved to nose tackle from rush end. And though the 6-4, 300-pounder was playing mainly on hunches, he wasn't hard to miss.

In the Red-White game, Brown made seven tackles, five of which came in the offensive backfield.

"Mania's going to be a man," said defensive line coach Jeff Jamrog. "He's probably, right now, the most powerful defensive lineman we have. And he's near the top in terms of quickness."

"At the absolute worst, he could be a guy who gets a great push in the pocket on third downs."

Brown will start fall behind Jason Lohr and Jon Clanton.

Then there's Johnson, a former tight end who caught on so quickly at the right rush end spot that he's listed No. 2 behind Demoin Adams).

A skeptic will view his rise, and those of Hopkins, Hollowell and Brown, as a product of Nebraska lacking quality depth. And maybe that was the case — but I doubt it's still an issue at those positions.

Let's move on to some other tidbits while you get ready for the first tailgate of the fall.

— NU's interior defensive line, a question mark last season due to the high number of injuries, might end up being the deepest area in 2001.

Lohr, Clanton and tackles Jeremy Slechta and Casey Nelson are all veterans. They're being pushed by Brown, sophomore Ryon Bingham and Patrick Kabongo. And, in the fall, four highly regarded freshmen will join the mix.

"But that depth can go in a hurry, probably on the line faster than any place else," Bohl said. "We're going to need all those guys."

— The Huskers will need a huge season from weakside linebacker Mark Vedral. He came out of his second straight spring with the No. 1 spot, but with Randy Stella's status with the team shaky after Solich suspended him just before the start of spring drills, Vedral could have a much heavier load. Stella was NU's No. 2 tackler last season.

Left rush end Chris Kelsay appears ready to become a dominant player. During the spring, he separated himself from the rest of the competition.

— Although he drew little attention during the spring, I-back Darran Diedrick is entrenched as the No. 1 I-back. Sophomore DeAntae Grixby, junior Thunder Collins and sophomore Robin Miller are in a pack behind the junior, and in August, Marques Simmons of Davenport, Iowa and Cory Ross of Denver will get some looks.

— With fullback Judd Davies injured and eventually having outpatient surgery to repair a bulging disc in his back, redshirt freshman Steve Kriewald had Solich thinking he could fare well

with the bruising Diedrick in a yards-after-contact contest.

— Getting John Gibson back is a bonus. The wingback received a sixth year of eligibility, and he was at his best late last season. But Gibson still has a ways to go bouncing back from knee surgery that followed the Alamo Bowl.

— We'll have to be patient with Nebraska's offensive line. The player projected to replace All-American guard Russ Hochstein, Jon Dawson, suffered a major knee injury in the spring. And with Dominic Raiola bypassing his senior season, the center position is still to be decided between Jon Rutherford and John Garrison.

— You don't have to go far down the depth chart to try and map out Nebraska's future. Six redshirt freshmen enter fall camp No. 2 at their positions. ■



**Lannie Hopkins is a
redshirt freshman
from Rowlett, Texas.**

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.



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Terry DOUGLASS

IT WAS AN HONEST MISTAKE, really. After covering a high school football playoff game in 1994, a newspaper reporter dutifully asked North Loup-Scotia Coach Rod Edsen why the solidly built young man standing on the sidelines in street clothes wasn't playing in such an important contest. After all, what eight-man football team couldn't use the help of a 200-pounder to win the war in the trenches? The answer to the question was both simple and a little shocking: The youngster's name was Steve Kriewald, and he was in the seventh grade.

That's not to say that Edsen wouldn't have liked to suit up Kriewald. Even in junior high, he stood 5-foot, 6 inches tall and weighed 205 pounds.

"We would've loved to have been able to put him on the field," said Edsen, who is now the head football coach at Fairbury High School. "I have no doubt that we could have put him at nose guard that day, and he could've easily held his own."

Even then it was clear that Kriewald would be a man playing against boys in prep athletics. But despite his dominance in eight-man football and Class D track and field, Kriewald was often so superior to his competition that it was difficult to judge his athleticism, and some may have wondered if he deserved the college football scholarship Nebraska offered him during his junior year.

But if there were any doubt that Kriewald could make it with the Cornhuskers, it has apparently been removed. Exhibit A is the post-spring depth chart. Kriewald, a 5-10, 255-pound redshirt freshman from Scotia, has advanced from off the radar screen to the No. 2 position behind Judd Davies.

And with Davies missing spring practice to have surgery on his back, Kriewald got plenty of opportunities to try and make an impression with the No. 1 offense. It appears the Nebraska coaching staff noticed.

"He got yards after contact — a bunch of them — and made some runs that showed very, very well," Nebraska Coach Frank Solich said of Kriewald's performance during the spring. "I think in the little bit of time that Steve has been running our offense, he's picked it up really well."

"His physical style of play was impressive."

Kriewald said he was pleased with his progress this spring. The spring practice season was Kriewald's first real opportunity to show what he could do after spending most of last fall running other team's plays with the scout team.

"I feel like it went real well this spring," Kriewald said. "I was rotating with the (number) ones. I'm really excited about a chance just to get out there and participate. I'd even like to get on special teams or something like that if I can."

It should probably come as no surprise that a highly regarded and highly recruited player like Kriewald would be able to step right in and make an impact at Nebraska. However, coming from an eight-man football program, some

may have figured Kriewald had to prove himself first.

Kriewald is believed to be just the fourth in-state eight-man player to be offered a scholarship out of high school in the past 25 years. He joins Terry Connealy (1990), Lance Lundberg ('89) and Dean Steinkuhler ('78) in that distinction.

When Nebraska offered Kriewald a scholarship during his junior year, he said that removed most of the doubt in his mind that he could play major college football. Still, he knows that sometimes there's a stigma attached to small-school players.

"Coming here with a scholarship, you've got to be able to prove yourself that much more," Kriewald said. "I hadn't thought about it too much because I got offered so early," Kriewald said. "It was a surprise for me to get offered, but I felt like I could do it. I guess if they saw it in me, and it wasn't even my senior year yet, there must have been something there."

That doesn't mean that Kriewald doesn't take his share of ribbings. That comes with the territory when the population of your hometown is about 350.

"Every now and then people will kid you that they've had more people come to one of their high school games than live in my entire town," Kriewald said. "But it's just messing around. I pretty much get treated the same as everybody else, so it's not too bad."

Most of the kidding probably ceased this spring when Kriewald unleashed a steady barrage of powerful runs and bone-crushing blocks in scrimmages.

Starting I-back Dahrran Diedrick said he knew Kriewald was for real when he saw him punish several would-be tacklers during a run that the team now refers to as "The Makovicka" — named for former NU fullback Joel Makovicka's memorable run against Akron in 1997.

"As we could see in the scrimmages, he can carry guys on his back and still keep going," Diedrick said. "He's a real powerful runner, and we know that we'll see good things from him. The plays aren't all second nature to him yet, but you can see that once he really gets confidence in himself that he can do it, he's going to be an excellent fullback."

While running skills are an a bonus, everyone knows that the No. 1 job for fullbacks in the Nebraska offense is to block. Solich said he thought Kriewald — an offensive lineman during his first years of high school football — had picked up the blocking schemes extremely well.

"I think as well as anybody we've had in a short period of time," Solich said. "There was probably a little bit of concern coming in because of him playing eight-man ball, as to how it was all going to fit. He made that all work well."

Just like Edsen knew it would.

"I've been coaching for 20 years and there hasn't been anybody like Steve," Edsen said. "He's a special young man." ■



Steve Kriewald has moved up to No. 2 on NU's depth chart.

Terry Douglass is the sports editor of the *Grand Island Independent*. He can be reached at douglass@ginetworks.com.



On Friday May 11, fans said goodbye to the Big Red Shop to make room for the next great Nebraska Football Tradition.



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"There are areas that we've certainly got to get better at. But I think we have the capability. We have the kind of athletes that it takes."

— **Frank Solich**
on the 2001
Huskers

**Frank Solich
At A Glance**

Year	Big 12		All	
	W	L	W	L
1998	5	3	9	4
1999	7	1	12	1
2000	6	2	10	2
Totals	18	6	31	7

Something to Prove

***Blackshirts
motivated
by numbers
from 2000
season***

***Story by
Mike Babcock
Photos by
Scott Bruhn***

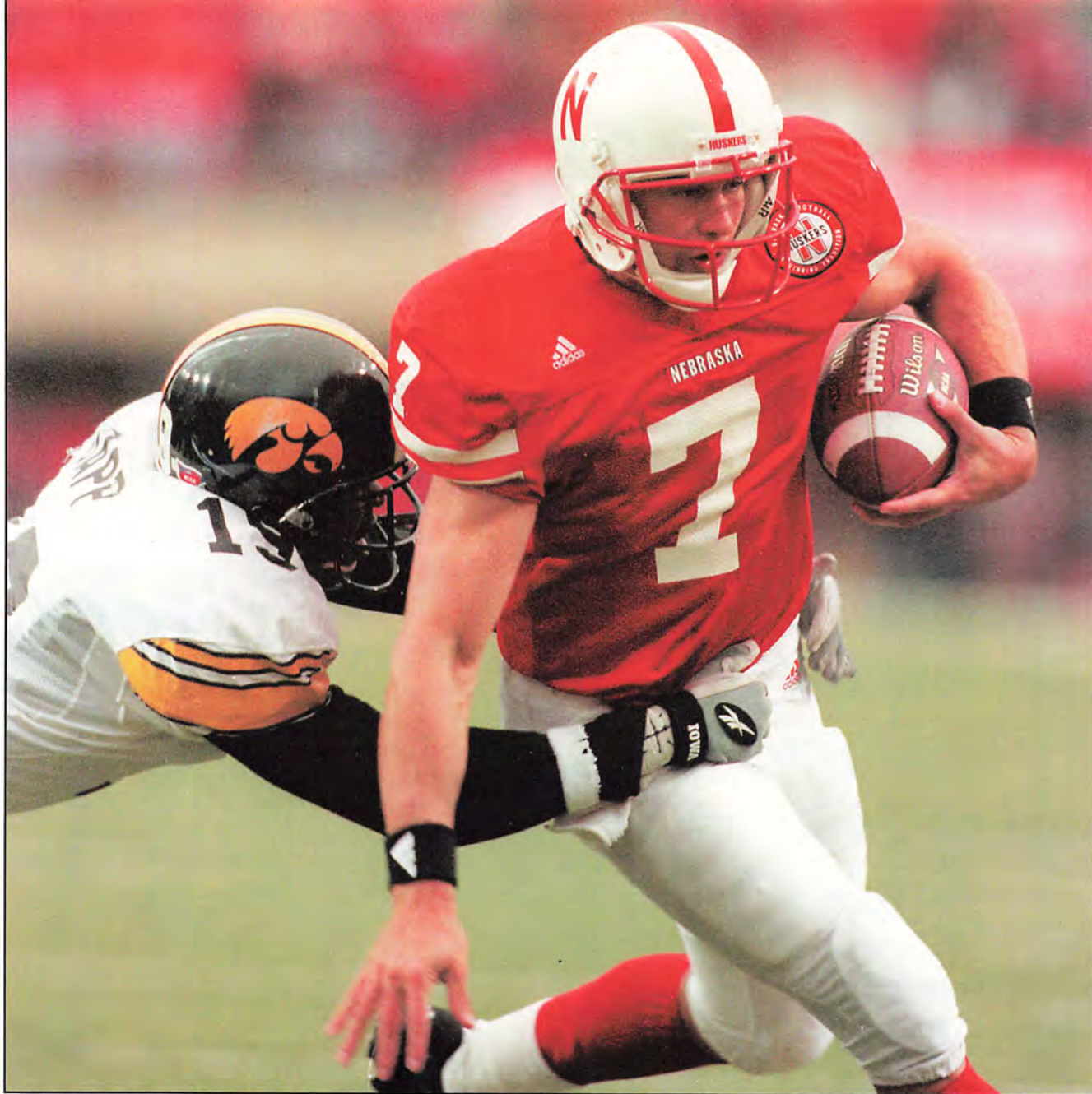
It's safe to assume that Nebraska won't be No. 1 in the pre-season national rankings. And that's fine with Cornhusker Coach Frank Solich. He can do without all of the media attention.

On the other hand, he would rather his fourth team not be ignored completely. "I guess if you look at it, if you have people that feel you're pretty good, hopefully you're going to be pretty good," he said. "If no one thinks you're going to be pretty good, then you've probably got problems."

The interest resulting from the Cornhuskers' pre-season No. 1 ranking a year ago did prove to be a dis-



Junior tackle Jon Clanton and his defensive teammates hope to put more pressure on opposing quarterbacks in 2001.



After his second shoulder surgery in as many years, Eric Crouch should be back at full speed for his senior season.

traction, and "I think all that activity probably didn't help," said Solich.

"But I don't know that it hurt. We still got off to a good start."

Except for the week following the Missouri game, when they dropped to No. 2 in the Associated Press poll, the Cornhuskers retained their No. 1 ranking until losing at Oklahoma, 31-14. "We still played really very good football at times during the early part of the season," Solich said.

"There were just a couple of times where we did not get it done."

The other time Nebraska didn't get it done, of course, was in mid-November, a 29-28 loss at Kansas State. The Cornhuskers were ranked fourth in the AP poll the week of that game.

The activity surrounding the pre-

Top Three Returning Rushers

Player	Att.	Yds.	TD
Eric Crouch	169	971	20
Dahrran Diedrick	33	212	3
Judd Davies	18	183	1

season No. 1 ranking had nothing to do with the losses, according to Solich. In retrospect, however, the lofty ranking might not have been justified.

That isn't to suggest he lacked confidence in his team. He "felt good" about it.

"But I was concerned about the top players that we lost on the defensive side of the ball, and, you know, I think

there was some good reason for concern," he said. "For whatever reason, I think people saw the offensive people coming back . . . and felt this was a non-stop football team.

"But that's why they call it a team. You have an offense and you have a defense and you have special teams. And very seldom are you going to be able to get it done if you are just great in one of those three areas. You'd better have another area that's working really, really well for you."

Oklahoma and Florida State, who met for the national championship in the Orange Bowl game, provided evidence of that, according to Solich. "They both had great defenses. They both had special teams that could hurt you," he said. "And I think they did that very well."

Although both teams had potent offenses, defense and special-teams play determined the Orange Bowl's outcome. The Sooners completely shut down Florida State to win 13-2.

Nebraska didn't have a national-title caliber defense last season, nor was its special teams play consistently at that level. Solich acknowledges those deficiencies now.

"We probably were not a complete football team last year," he said.

Statistics reflect that. The Cornhuskers ranked 26th nationally in both scoring defense and total defense, allowing averages of 19.4 points and 321.8 yards per game. The scoring average was the highest since 1958 (23.5), while the yardage average was the highest since 1991 (342.9).

Those numbers have provided off-season motivation for the Blackshirts.

"Our goal is to show up, to prove to people we weren't near the kind of defense last year that we want to be," said strongside linebacker Scott Shanle, one of eight defensive players with starting experience.

Weakside linebacker Randy Stella, a ninth, was suspended indefinitely before spring practice began. Whether he'll be reinstated for his senior season won't be determined until late summer.

With or without him, the defense is committed to being better than last



Tracey Wistrom

Top Three Returning Receivers

Player	No.	Yds.	TD
Tracey Wistrom	19	314	5
John Gibson	8	41	1
Jon Bowling	4	46	1

season.

"Nobody is going to settle for just being an average defense," Shanle said. "We want to be an excellent

defense because we know an excellent defense will be what gets us to the Big 12 championship (game) and the national championship (game) and win those games.

"We know that defense wins championships. There's not a guy on this defense that doesn't believe that. It got old last year hearing, 'the defense this, the defensive that' in a negative way. So we're out this year to have people talk about the Blackshirts, the defense, in a positive tone."

Depending on Stella's status, Nebraska will have starters returning at seven or eight positions. If Stella returns to play weakside linebacker, middle linebacker, rover and right rush end would be the only positions at which there aren't returning starters. And Demoiné Adams, who had four starts and shared time with Chris Kelsay at left rush end last season, moved to the right side in the spring.

Jamie Burrow succeeds Carlos Polk at middle linebacker, while Dion Booker, the returning starter at free safety, could start at rover, with Willie Amos likely at free safety. If Booker starts at free safety, however, then Lannie Hopkins would probably step in at rover.

Hopkins was moved from weakside linebacker during the spring.

The play at rover will be a key. "It's



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probably as important as any position on the defensive team," Solich said. "It's a difficult position because you're asking a guy to cover wideouts but then you're (also) asking them to tackle big, strong running backs coming up the middle."

In any case, the Cornhuskers should have options at safety.

"It should be really a strong position for us," said Solich.

That's true of the entire secondary with the return of cornerbacks Keyuo Craver, Erwin Swiney and DeJuan Groce and the play during the spring of some youngsters, including cornerback Pat Ricketts and free safety Jerrell Pippens, both walk-ons. Ricketts could end up as the top nickel back.

Depth is a concern at linebacker, not only because of the uncertainty regarding Stella but also because back-up middle linebacker Tony Tata suffered a knee injury during spring practice, causing defensive coordinator Craig Bohl to move T.J. Hollowell from the weakside to the middle.

Hollowell moved from the strong-side to the weakside, where he backed up Mark Vedral, to start the spring. Vedral, who started once when Stella was injured, played well in the spring.

Shanle is confident there won't be a significant dropoff at middle linebacker. "Jamie's a great athlete," he said of Burrow. "He's going to do great. I think he proved last year when he got into games he can make big plays. He's a very physical player and he's got good instincts."

The defense is determined to be more physical, according to Kelsay. "I think we're going to be a lot more physical than we were last year," he said. "We're going to have a nasty defense."

"We're a blue-collar defense. There aren't a whole lot of big names. There's no one person that just really stands out on top of everybody else. We're a unified bunch, playing for each other."

Defensive tackle Jeremy Slechta and nose tackle Jason Lohr have been playing side-by-side since they were true freshmen, giving Nebraska a solid base up front — if Lohr recovers from post-spring back surgery. "It doesn't appear to be the type of surgery that would hold him out," Solich said.

The defensive line, particularly with Lohr, "can be a strong point for us," he said.

Jon Clanton and Casey Nelson along with young players Patrick Kabongo, Manaia Brown and Ryon



Keyuo Craver

Top Three Returning Tacklers*

Player	UT	AT	TT
Keyuo Craver	33	23	56
Scott Shanle	30	25	55
Jason Lohr	19	27	46

*Linebacker Randy Stella, who had 58 tackles in 2000, was suspended indefinitely in the spring.

Bingham — if he can get healthy — will make tackle one of the team's deepest positions.

The offense must be rebuilt around only four returning starters: left tackle Dave Volk, left guard Tionu Fonoti, tight end Tracey Wistrom and quarterback Eric Crouch.

Volk and Fonoti provide a solid foundation for the line, which will include Jon Rutherford starting at any of the other three positions, depending on how quickly young players develop.

Rutherford, who was regarded as a starter last season, probably will begin two-a-day practices at center, with Dan Waldrop or Chris Loos at right tackle and Wes Cody at right guard.

Loos missed spring practice because of a knee injury.

Waldrop and Cody played well during the spring. That "was not necessarily a pleasant surprise, but it's not just automatic that happens with young linemen," Solich said.

Jon Dawson also was playing well at right guard before a knee injury.

Dominic Raiola's early departure for the NFL created a void at center, which John Garrison or Matt Shook would fill if Rutherford were to end

up starting at right guard or right tackle. With everyone healthy, the offensive line should have sufficient depth to allow for rotation to keep players fresh.

Wistrom again heads up the deepest offensive position. The Cornhuskers were so well-stocked at tight end that Trevor Johnson was moved to rush end during the spring and quickly established himself on the depth chart there. "We were real satisfied with what he got accomplished," said Solich.

Aaron Golliday and Jon Bowling are the top two tight ends after Wistrom. But Kyle Ringenberg, a walk-on from Elkhorn, Neb., also played well there after moving from rush end. Plus, Chris Septak and Phil Peetz are scholarship players, giving Nebraska five tight ends currently on scholarship.

The key player on offense is Crouch, who, barring the unforeseen, will play his final season without pain in his right shoulder. Unlike a year ago, Crouch didn't hurry his rehabilitation following surgery on the shoulder. "And I think that will prove to be the best thing for him," Solich said.

And for the Cornhuskers because as Crouch goes, so goes the offense.

"I know that there are a lot of eyes on me," the senior from Omaha said.

There also will be a lot of pressure on him applied by opposing defenses until a group of new receivers and running backs prove they're capable of shouldering some of the load.

Dahrran Diedrick emerged from spring practice where he began it, atop the depth chart at I-back. And "Dahrran is a clear No. 1 at this point," Solich said after releasing the depth chart.

The order of those behind him — DeAntae Grixby, Thunder Collins and Robin Miller — is not clear.

The plan apparently isn't to rotate I-backs, as Dan Alexander and Correll Buckhalter did last season. "If you have a guy that just steps forward and is clearly the guy at the position, and out-distances everybody else at the position, I think you go with him," said Solich.

Judd Davies underwent back surgery in the spring, creating some concern at fullback, although Steve Kriewald and Paul Kastl have shown they are capable of handling the position.

The surgery will make the versatile Davies even better. Playing with pain last season, he "probably was not able to operate at quite the level he will operate at," Solich said.

Nebraska's receiving corps received a big boost when the NCAA granted John Gibson a sixth season of eligibility. Split end Wilson Thomas and wingback Troy Hassebroek are the only other experienced wide receivers. And they have only one career pass reception between them.

"That's a spot where we're going to need people to step up," said Solich.

Ben Cornelson and Ben Zajicek are among those expected to step up. But both were limited by injuries during spring practice, which was "a little bit discouraging for us," Solich said.

Because of the depth concerns at wide receiver, Josh Brown tried split end in the spring. But he'll focus on place-kicking in the fall, and try to hold off the challenge of Sandro DeAngelis.

Kyle Larson succeeds Dan Hadenfeldt as the punter, and Garrison is back to handle the deep-snapping. But other elements of the kicking game still must be determined.

"There are a lot of things that need to be resolved, certainly. Stuff like kickoff returns, punt returns, those kind of things, are still in question somewhat," said Solich.

Nebraska's special-teams play wasn't pre-season No. 1 quality early on a year ago. That was apparent in the Cornhuskers' second game, a 27-24 overtime victory at Notre Dame. The Fighting Irish scored second-half touchdowns on a 100-yard kickoff return and an 83-yard punt return.

"We weren't satisfied with what we got done with special teams through last season," Solich said. "In order for us to vie for a championship of any sort, we need to show improvement."

Even though the Cornhuskers won't be No. 1 in the pre-season polls, they'll be in the top 10, and possibly in the top five, though that's probably a stretch considering they finished eighth in the AP rankings and seventh in the ESPN/USA Today coaches' poll last season.

Still, Nebraska has "a chance to be a very good football team," said Solich. "There are areas that we've certainly got to get better at. But I think we have the capability. We have the kind of athletes that it takes. I think we have excellent team speed. I think we'll be an aggressive, physical football team."

"And I'm excited about the opportunity to improve in some areas."

Though excited doesn't describe it, he's also happy about the prospect of less interest. Fewer national reporters on campus during the summer will be just fine with him. ■



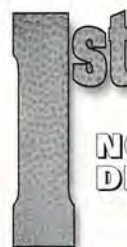
HUSKERS AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

2001 SCHEDULE

Aug. 25	Texas Christian (ABC)	Noon
Sept. 1	Troy State	6 p.m.
Sept. 8	Notre Dame (ABC)	7 p.m.
Sept. 15	Rice	TBA
Sept. 29	@ Missouri	TBA
Oct. 6	Iowa State	TBA
Oct. 13	@ Baylor	TBA
Oct. 20	Texas Tech (Homecoming)	TBA
Oct. 27	Oklahoma	TBA
Nov. 3	@ Kansas	TBA
Nov. 10	Kansas State	TBA
Nov. 23	@ Colorado (ABC)	TBA

(Times are subject to change and are Central)



2000 RECORD: 10-2 CONFERENCE RECORD: 6-2

S 2	San Jose State	W, 49-13
S 9	@ Notre Dame	W, 27-24, ot
S 23	Iowa	W, 42-13
S 30	Missouri	W, 42-24
O 7	@ Iowa State	W, 49-27
O 14	@ Texas Tech	W, 56-3
O 21	Baylor	W, 59-0
O 28	@ Oklahoma	L, 31-14
N 4	Kansas	W, 56-17
N 11	@ Kansas State	L, 29-28
N 24	Colorado	W, 34-32
D 30	vs. Northwestern	W, 66-17

&Alamo Bowl, San Antonio

POST SPRING DEPTH CHART

SE 9	Wilson Thomas**	6-5	205	Jr.	LR 57	CHRIS KELSAY**	6-5	270	Jr.
5	Ben Zajicek	6-0	210	Fr.	92	Justin Smith**	6-4	260	Jr.
19	John Klem	6-0	200	Jr.	or 95	J.P. Wichmann**	6-4	230	Sr.
LT 58	DAVE VOLK***	6-5	300	Sr.	NT 70	JASON LOHR**	6-2	275	Sr.
67	Nate Kolterman*	6-3	330	Jr.	55	Jon Clanton**	6-2	280	Jr.
73	Scott Koethe*	6-5	310	Jr.	96	Mania Brown	6-4	300	Fr.
or 72	Tim Green	6-4	325	So.	or 59	Ryon Bingham	6-3	275	So.
LG 77	TONIU FONOTI**	6-4	340	Jr.	DT 56	JEREMY SLECHTA***	6-6	285	Sr.
78	Mike Erickson	6-4	300	Fr.	85	Casey Nelson**	6-2	285	Sr.
65	Jake Andersen	6-1	290	Fr.	or 94	Patrick Kabongo*	6-6	290	So.
C 66	Jon Rutherford***	6-3	300	Sr.	RR 98	DEMOINE ADAMS**	6-2	235	Jr.
or 52	John Garrison**	6-4	285	Jr.	88	Trevor Johnson*	6-4	250	So.
53	Matt Shook*	6-3	300	Jr.	52	Benard Thomas*	6-4	250	So.
74	David Kolowski	6-5	300	Jr.	or 95	J.P. Wichmann**	6-4	230	Sr.
RG 59	Wes Cody*	6-2	295	Jr.	SLB 43	SCOTT SHANLE**	6-2	235	Jr.
50	Jon Dawson*	6-2	295	So.	47	Ira Cooper	6-2	220	Fr.
55	Junior Tagoa'i*	6-2	290	So.	51	Gabe Fries	6-2	230	Jr.
RT 68	Dan Waldrop*	6-5	330	So.	MLB 48	Jamie Burrow***	6-1	245	Sr.
76	Chris Loos*	6-3	310	So.	17	T.J. Hollowell*	6-0	220	So.
75	Kyle Kollmorgen***	6-5	310	Sr.	90	Tony Tata*	6-1	245	Jr.
TE 87	TRACEY WISTROM***	6-5	240	Sr.	WLB 9	Mark Vedral***	6-1	210	Sr.
99	Aaron Golliday**	6-4	285	Jr.	23	Blanchard Johnson*	5-11	205	So.
84	Jon Bowling**	6-3	245	Jr.	44	Jon Penny*	6-1	220	Sr.
86	Kyle Ringenberg	6-5	245	So.	LCB 3	KEYUO CRAVER***	5-10	190	Sr.
QB 7	ERIC CROUCH***	6-1	200	Sr.	28	Pat Ricketts*	5-11	180	So.
10	Jammal Lord*	6-2	215	So.	6	Lornell McPherson	5-9	175	Fr.
11	Joe Chrisman**	5-11	190	Jr.	FS 14	DION BOOKER***	6-1	205	Sr.
FB 4	Judd Davies*	6-0	240	So.	27	Willie Amos*	6-0	185	So.
39	Steve Kriewald	5-10	255	Fr.	31	Jerrell Pippens*	6-2	190	So.
37	Paul Kastl*	5-10	230	Jr.	ROV 14	DION BOOKER***	6-1	205	Sr.
49	Nick Gragert	6-0	230	Sr.	40	Lannie Hopkins	6-2	205	Fr.
IB 30	Dahrran Diedrick**	6-0	225	Jr.	2	Aaron Terpening**	5-11	200	Jr.
6	DeAntae Grixby*	5-8	205	So.	20	Wes Woodward***	5-8	185	Sr.
or 1	Thunder Collins*	6-2	190	Jr.	4	Terrell Butler*	5-9	190	So.
21	Robin Miller*	5-11	225	So.	RCB 5	DeJuan Groce**	5-10	190	Jr.
WB 8	John Gibson***	6-0	195	Sr.	or 16	ERWIN SWINEY***	6-0	185	Sr.
89	Troy Hassebroek**	6-4	220	Jr.	18	Jeff Hemje***	6-0	180	Sr.
81	Ben Cornelson*	5-10	190	Jr.	P 19	Kyle Larson	6-0	205	So.
31	Fred Thorne	5-10	185	So.	26	Josh Brown**	6-2	190	Jr.
PK 22	JOSH BROWN**	6-2	190	Jr.					
26	Sandro DeAngelis	5-8	195	Fr.					
KO 22	Sandro DeAngelis	5-8	195	Fr.					
26	JOSH BROWN**	6-2	190	Jr.					

NOTES

- Wingback John Gibson was granted another year of eligibility after the depth chart was released.
- Defensive back Dion Booker was listed No. 1 at free safety and rover.
- Returning lettermen in bold
- Starters in CAPS
- * Letters earned

Hold 11	Joe Chrisman**	5-11	190	Jr.
32	Kelly Cook	6-1	190	So.
7	Eric Crouch***	6-1	200	Sr.
Snap 52	JOHN GARRISON**	6-4	285	Jr.
87	Tracey Wistrom***	6-5	240	Sr.
74	David Kolowski	6-5	300	Jr.
PR 5	DeJuan Groce**	5-10	190	Jr.
3	Keyuo Craver***	5-10	190	Sr.
81	Ben Cornelson*	5-10	190	Jr.
4	Terrell Butler*	5-9	190	So.
KOR 81	Ben Cornelson*	5-10	190	Jr.
27	Josh Davis	5-11	195	So.

Award-Winning Season?

Tenopir says Fonoti, Volk both qualify as Outland candidates in 2001

By Mike Babcock

Certainly, Milt Tenopir is biased. But the Nebraska offensive line coach also speaks with the authority of having worked with five Outland Trophy winners during his 27 seasons.

And one of the five, Dave Rimington, won the Outland twice, something no other player has done since the award for the nation's top collegiate interior lineman was established in 1946.

No program can boast of more Outland Trophy winners than Nebraska, and that's not even counting the two earned by Cornhusker defensive players Larry Jacobson and Rich Glover. Oklahoma and Ohio State are tied for second on the all-

time list, with four Outlands apiece.

The point is, Tenopir knows what it takes to win the Outland Trophy. And he considers not one but two Cornhusker offensive linemen as qualified candidates for the 2001 award.

The two are tackle Dave Volk and guard Tionu Fonoti. "You'd be hard-pressed if you really evaluated film to find them any better," Tenopir said. "They're pretty exceptional players."

Volk and Fonoti, who play next to each other on the left side, are the only returning starters in a line that would have had a third if center Dominic Raiola hadn't left early for the NFL.

Raiola was among three finalists for the Outland Trophy last season. The award went to defensive tackle John Henderson, who returned for his senior season at Tennessee. The other finalist was Texas offensive tackle Leonard Davis, the second pick overall in the NFL draft.

"Dom probably would have won that thing hands-down had there not been two from the Big 12 in the final three," Tenopir said, his bias showing through. "A lot of factors are involved there."

Among the factors in winning the Outland Trophy, or any of a dozen or so other individual awards including the Heisman Trophy — the oldest and probably the most prestigious — is national media exposure. Some schools promote candidates with elaborate, full-color posters and mailings.



"We don't do a lot of that," said Tenopir. But, he quickly added, sports information director Chris Anderson "does a good job of getting names out in front of people."

Getting the names of Cornhusker offensive linemen in front of people usually ensures their candidacy for the Outland Trophy and/or the Lombardi Award, which is presented by the Rotary Club of Houston to the "nation's top collegiate lineman" — not necessarily an interior lineman. Raiola was among four finalists for the 2000 Lombardi Award, won by Florida State defensive end Jamal Reynolds.

The Cornhuskers have had four Lombardi Award winners, most recently rush end Grant Wistrom in 1997. Wistrom's brother Tracey, a third-team Associated Press All-



Junior left guard Toniui Fonoti (77) and senior left tackle Dave Volk (58) are the only returning starters from an offensive line that helped the Huskers to a No. 1 finish nationally in rushing offense.

American tight end last season, was one of 52 preliminary candidates on the 2001 Lombardi watch list announced in early May.

Tracey Wistrom also will be a candidate for the John Mackey Award, presented by the Nassau County, N.Y., Sports Commission to the nation's "top Division I-A tight end."

Wistrom was a semifinalist for the award last season.

Cornerback Keyuo Craver has been included on the Jim Thorpe Award watch list the past two seasons and figures to be on it again. The Thorpe Award was established in 1986 and is presented to the nation's "outstanding (collegiate) defensive back" by the Jim Thorpe Association.

And quarterback Eric Crouch will

again be a candidate for both the Davey O'Brien Award and the Heisman Trophy. He was a semifinalist for the former, and though he didn't finish in the top 10 in balloting, he was in the running for the Heisman Trophy until late in the season.

The official publication of the Downtown Athletic Club of New York City included a color photo of

Crouch in a "2000 Heisman Aspirants" section of its December issue.

Only two of the top 10 finishers in voting for last year's Heisman Trophy, won by Florida State quarterback Chris Weinke, return: running backs Damien Anderson of Northwestern and Ken Simonton of Oregon State. Anderson finished fifth

Returning Honors Candidates

Keyuo Craver	2000 Jim Thorpe Award Watch List
Eric Crouch	2000 Davey O'Brien Quarterback Semifinalist
Toniui Fonoti	2000 Outland Trophy Watch List
Tracey Wistrom	2000 John Mackey Award Semifinalist

in the voting, while Simonton finished 10th.

Clemson quarterback Woodrow Dantzler also is back and will figure in the mix.

Barring extraordinary statistics, and because running quarterbacks haven't gotten much consideration the last 30-plus years, Crouch's Heisman candidacy will depend on team success.

And even then, there are no guarantees. Tommie Frazier led Nebraska to the national championship in 1995 but finished second to Ohio State's Eddie George in the Heisman race. Frazier had an outstanding season, as well as tremendous career success. But George had more impressive statistics.

Wistrom is a longshot to win either the Mackey Award or the Lombardi Award, which typically has gone to defensive players. The Cornhuskers don't pass much, and tight ends are often evaluated on receiving statistics even though much more goes into playing their position.

And Craver will probably be overlooked, as he has been — as evidenced by his only receiving all-conference honorable mention from the Associated Press and Big 12 coaches in 2000.

Predicting such things is an exercise in futility. But if Nebraska adds another individual trophy to the cases in the Hewitt Center in 2001, it likely will be a ninth Outland or a fifth Lombardi Award, a 40-pound block of granite — Vince Lombardi was one of Fordham's famed "Seven Blocks of Granite."

The Cornhuskers' offensive line tradition is a factor in gaining national exposure, and "it's a lot of publicity more than sometimes what they actually do on the field," Tenopir said.

"Those guys that have won it (the Outland Trophy) certainly were excellent football players. But it's voted on by folks that really don't watch tape to evaluate kids."

Watching videotape is about the only way to evaluate offensive linemen because there are really no statistics, though Nebraska's rushing success provides an indirect basis.

"If you can get 350 yards a ball-game running the football, somebody's got to be doing some work," said Tenopir. "I think because of that, our linemen probably get a little more attention."



Senior left cornerback Keyuo Craver has been named to the Jim Thorpe Award Watch List the past two seasons.

And rushing yardage itself isn't the only attention-getter for Cornhusker offensive linemen. "Even people watching the game that don't know anything about football can see a big old 300-pound kid running out in the open field, running over folks, leading the back down the field," said Tenopir.

Volk, a senior from Battle Creek, Neb., is 6-foot-5 and 300 pounds. Fonoti, a junior from Hauula, Hawaii, is 6-4 and 340 pounds. Volk, in many ways the forgotten man in the offensive line the past two seasons, "has

made himself into a very good football player," Tenopir said.

Specifically, Volk has an Outland Trophy candidate's ability. "But Toniui would probably be the leading candidate," said Tenopir. "Again, it goes back to, really, recognition."

Fonoti played as a true freshman, something that almost never happens in Nebraska's offensive line. He was second-team All-Big 12 according to the AP and the conference coaches. And his name was included on the Outland Trophy watch list last season. Such recognition helps. ■



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QUARTERBACK

Small things often make a big difference in recruiting. For instance, if the shrubbery on campus hadn't been so meticulously manicured, Eric Crouch might have gone to Notre Dame.

That's a bit of a stretch, dramatic license you might say. But Nebraska's senior quarterback did make a recruiting trip to South Bend, Ind., and the tradition that attracts Blue Chip athletes and perennially puts the Fighting Irish atop recruiting analysts' lists did influence Crouch in a negative way.

Notre Dame was "almost too traditional for me," he said, describing his visit to Notre Dame. "I mean, the bushes were cut perfectly, and all the stuff on campus . . . it was kind of strange for me to see. The sense or the aura that I got when I was there, I just wasn't used to that."

PERSONNEL

QUARTERBACK

Returning

Eric Crouch
Jammal Lord
Joe Chrisman

Lost

None

Though well maintained, the Notre Dame campus was "old looking," he said. No disrespect, but tradition to one person can be dust to another.

Even so, Crouch might have gone beyond appearances and considered the Irish more seriously if they hadn't hedged on his playing quarterback. Dave Roberts, Notre Dame's offensive coordinator at the time, said he was being recruited as a quarterback but they might try him at other positions, too.

Later, when Crouch told Roberts by phone that he would sign a letter of intent with Nebraska, Roberts said, "You've got the wrong idea. We wanted you to play quarterback."

There was no mention of other positions. Crouch laughs in recalling their conversation.

Truth be told, Notre Dame would have been hard-pressed to wrest Crouch from Nebraska. He was attracted by home-state loyalty and by a Cornhusker offense similar to the one he directed at Omaha's Millard North High School. And, of course, he wanted to be close to family and friends.

Home would be only an hour's drive away "if I got homesick," said Crouch. "And that happened quite a bit when I was a freshman. I'm glad it worked out the way it did."

Still, he didn't want to second-guess himself or wonder if he would have been better off elsewhere. So he visited not only Notre Dame but also Ohio State before settling on the Cornhuskers.

The landscaping in Columbus, Ohio, didn't put him off. "I had a really good trip there, a lot of fun," he said. "If I would have decided to go to another school, that's where it probably would have been. They had a great facility and the coaches and players were all down-to-earth, great people."

"It made me feel more at home when I was there than at Notre Dame."

But like Roberts, Ohio State's quarterbacks coach, Walt Harris, told Crouch that the Buckeyes might want to utilize his speed at a position other than quarterback, probably wide receiver.

He had run 40-yard dashes in 4.33 and 4.34 seconds at Ohio State's summer camp. "Of course those were hand-held times," Crouch said. "But they (the coaches) were impressed."

So when he was told he would be recruited as an "athlete," any doubts that he would end up at Nebraska were effectively eliminated. "I was pretty set on playing quarterback," he said.

Four years later, the wisdom of Crouch's decision is apparent. With one season remaining, he has established himself among the most productive quarterbacks in Cornhusker history. He has already rushed for more career yards (2,319) than any Nebraska quarterback. He ranks sixth all-time in passing yards (2,971). And only Tommie Frazier had more than his 5,290 total offense yards.

What makes his passing yardage even more impressive is that he has thrown the last two seasons with a sore right shoulder.

In his final go-around, Crouch should finally be able to throw pain-free, following surgery — his second on the shoulder — in early January and a careful rehabilitation program that kept him from doing any passing until the first of May. "So there's no question I know that he can be a passer that we know he can be, hopefully high in the 50-percent range, and we'll go from there," Gill said.

Crouch's career-completion percentage is 49.6, with 22 touchdowns and 15 interceptions.

A healthy right shoulder also should enhance his mental well-being. "He's physically tough; there's no doubt about that," said Gill. "But I think that's going to ease his mind to think about some other things, to anticipate better plays versus being concerned about, 'Am I going to be able to make the proper throw in a certain situation?' So there's no question it's going to help him mentally."

If Crouch has been distracted even a little by pain in his shoulder, he hasn't let on. He's shown the durability so essential to a quarterback in Nebraska's option-oriented offensive system. "I've made it through every season so far, playing every game, being ready to go," Crouch said.

Barring something unforeseen during the summer, he'll be ready for his final season.

"I always think about my career here at Nebraska as being something that I've accomplished (that) I never thought I ever would. It's something I think about (as) I'm blessed. It's something that maybe a lot of people thought I wouldn't do," he said. "It's been a lifetime dream for me."

The realization of his dream of playing college football probably wouldn't have been quite the same if he had gone to Ohio State or Notre Dame. A Nebraskan playing at Nebraska is special, with its own special demands. "People grow up and they want to be the star," said Crouch.

But "sometimes when you get to that point, you start learning that it's a little bit different than you expected. It's just not all gold chains and diamond rings. There are a lot of negative things that go along with it. And I think it takes a special person to build the right type of character."

For him, however, the positives have far out-stripped the negatives. "The last eight months I'm ever going to be here, it's real sad, you know? It's my last shot," he said. ■

OUTLOOK

Gill anticipates an outstanding season for Crouch. After four years in the program, there's an unspoken communication between player and coach. "He's now going to even take it to another level, almost knowing the same thing that we as coaches are wanting to call, anticipating what we're going to call," said Gill. "He's not going to be 100 percent correct in what we're going to call. But he's going to pretty well know what we're going to be anticipating on every play."

Even though Crouch, a potential Heisman Trophy candidate, is the only returning starter in the offensive backfield, that's "not going to put any more pressure on him," Gill said, adding, "I want him to play within our offense and everything else is going to take care of itself."

Lord, of course, gained valuable experience in the spring, with Crouch sidelined.

As a junior, Eric Crouch was Nebraska's No. 2 rusher, with 971 yards and 20 touchdowns.

I-BACK/FULLBACK

Dahrran Diedrick couldn't have been assigned a better host for his recruiting visit. Ahman Green, who ranks second in career rushing at Nebraska, showed him around campus, and town.

Spending time with Green was "just real good because that's somebody you watch on TV all the time," Diedrick said recalling the visit. "So he's kind of like a celebrity to you.

"You come in and he shows you around; it's pretty good."

Three years later, Diedrick still talks respectfully of Green, whom he recalls as "kind of a quiet guy. I didn't really ask questions. I just wanted to go out and feel it out for myself," said Diedrick. "So he just put me in the environment. I did what he did that weekend. I was just tagging along."

PERSONNEL

I-BACK Returning

Dahrran Diedrick
DeAntae Grixby
Thunder Collins
Robin Miller

Lost

Dan Alexander
Correll Buckhalter

FULLBACK Returning

Judd Davies
Steve Kriewald
Paul Kastl
Nick Gragert

Lost

Willie Miller

The Cornhuskers would like to see Diedrick tag along with Green, so to speak, by doing what he did as an I-back during his three seasons at Nebraska. That's not to say Diedrick needs to rush for 1,877 yards and 22 touchdowns, as Green did in 1997. A reasonable facsimile would do just fine.

OK. A reasonable facsimile of the second-best single-season rushing total in school history might be a little bit, well . . . unreasonable. Diedrick will be under enough pressure as it is. Still, those who ought to know are confident that the junior I-back can handle the job, as well as the pressure.

In fact, quarterback Eric Crouch paid him the ultimate compliment following the Spring Game. "The way he runs, the way he looks, he reminds me a lot of Ahman Green," Crouch said.

Lest that comment be taken out of context, Crouch qualified what he meant. Diedrick's style is similar to Green's. "The way he runs low to the ground, his movement and his body build are very, very similar," Crouch said. "It's one thing to compare him to someone. But Dahrran's his own person.

"Obviously, he's going to have to prove that. And he's done a good job so far."

Dave Gillespie, Diedrick's position coach, agrees with Crouch about Diedrick's job so far. He showed in the spring that he's ready to take over for Dan Alexander and Correll Buckhalter.

"He realized that now it was his turn, and the thing I really, really liked about what he did was, he had that killer instinct, that, 'I'm going to leave no stone unturned in preparation. I'm going to be perfect in everything I do. Every play I run in practice, I'm going to try to be perfect. In meetings, I'm going to be really focused and make sure I understand exactly what's going on,'" said Gillespie.

"To a degree, he did that the last couple of years. But it's never been at the same heightened sense of urgency, that, 'It's all going to be really meaningful for me now because I'm going to be the guy out there getting it done.' His response and his sense of urgency about it were really good."

Diedrick's demeanor didn't surprise Gillespie. He has been focused from the beginning, when he arrived in January of 1998 and went through his first spring of practices.

He has never coasted. "Even in those two years where he probably knew he wasn't going to be the guy, he still worked hard, came to every practice wanting to get better and waiting for that opportunity," Gillespie said. "It's probably like being vice president of the United States. You're not very important at first in the scope of things. But you're one heartbeat away from being very important.

"I think he understood that, and certainly prepared himself well. And I think in the back of his mind, he was preparing himself for this time right now, when it was going to be his time."

That this would be his time was fairly apparent going into spring. Diedrick began atop the depth chart and stayed there. "Dahrran is a clear No. 1 at this point," Coach Frank Solich said afterward. "That can certainly change. But he didn't do anything this spring to have that not be the case.

"He's shown enough during two seasons and this spring to list him there."

The 6-foot, 225-pound Diedrick has carried 90 times for 515 yards and five touchdowns during those two seasons. More importantly, though, he has shown the strength, durability and willingness to run inside the tackles, something Nebraska's offense demands of an I-back.

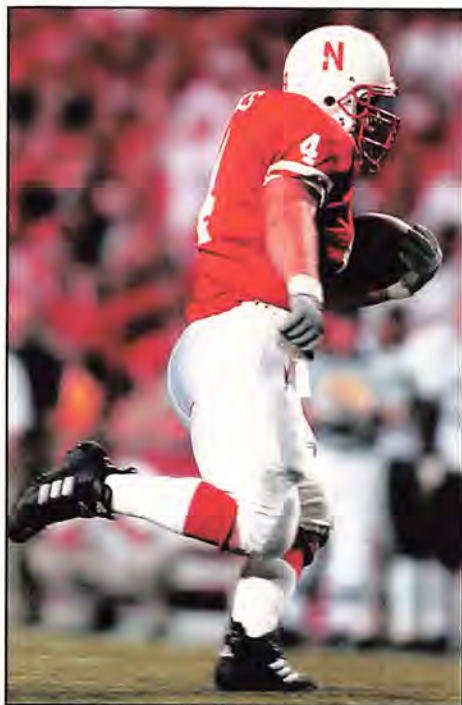
Junior Dahrran Diedrick is the clearcut No. 1 at I-back and heir apparent to Dan Alexander and Correll Buckhalter. Diedrick has rushed for 515 yards and five touchdowns in two seasons. He has averaged 5.7 yards per carry.

OUTLOOK

Diedrick will go into the season as the starter, but Grixby, Collins and Miller, who also could play fullback in a pinch, will continue to compete for the top back-up job. During the spring, they "certainly made their own statements that they're wanting to play," Gillespie said. "I feel comfortable that out of those three guys right behind him that there's enough talent to play."

Solich has indicated a preference for one I-back to get a majority of the carries. But he's not averse to rotating I-backs, as he did last season, if it comes to that.

If Davies is recovered from back surgery and can stay healthy, he'll give the Cornhuskers versatility at fullback. Kriewald showed an ability to get yards after contact in the spring and emerged slightly ahead of Kastl on the depth chart. But not much separates the two, according to Solich.



A healthy Judd Davies would give Nebraska versatility at fullback. As a backup to Willie Miller in 2000, Davies played in every game, rushing 18 times for 183 yards and catching three passes for 49 yards.



About the only question that remains to be answered is whether Diedrick can make big plays. He didn't during the spring, but then he didn't carry much in scrimmages before the Red-White game, in which he carried 18 times for 52 yards and one touchdown. His long run was 15 yards.

"You always get a little concerned about not having big plays in the spring game. But Dahrran has, at times, broken some big plays for us in games," Solich said.

He broke a 42-yard touchdown run against Kansas State the season before last.

"So we know the capability's there," said Solich.

Such plays are evidence of Diedrick's preparation, even when he knew he would be a back-up.

"That's ones of the things I really admired about Dahrran," said Gillespie. "At least he never visibly showed any signs of discouragement or frustration with me through that time. He certainly played well enough, when he was given the opportunity, where in his own mind and in a lot of people's minds, he could have made a great case for saying, 'Hey, I should be playing more.'"

"I know there were people who felt like he should. But Dahrran never came across that way. He was always supportive of the guys ahead of him and came to practice every day preparing like he was going to be the guy that was going to play the whole game. It made my job easier." ■



Thunder Collins rushed for 77 yards in limited action in his first season as a Husker. He was the leading rusher in the Spring Game with 55 yards.

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CUT & SEND

SPLIT END/WINGBACK

Basketball can be a solitary activity for Wilson Thomas. And it can be therapeutic, an escape from the daily demands of growing up in what he describes as a "hard neighborhood."

Thomas recalls living near a park in Omaha and getting in trouble "numerous times" for sneaking out of the house to play in pick-up games with older boys on the basketball court he could see from a window in his room. "If there were people, I would always go down there and play," he said.

Sometimes he would sneak out even if the court were devoid of activity.

"If I had some things on my mind, I'd just go shoot," he said.

Later, about the time he enrolled at North High and after his family moved from the neighborhood near the park, "we put up a basketball rim behind my house," he said.

Sometimes he would shoot baskets there until well into the night, with illumination provided by a light in the alley. "If something didn't go right, I'd be out there shooting, like to get away," said the Cornhuskers' junior split end. "If I had a bad day at school, I'd go out and shoot."

On especially hot days, he would wait for the sun to go down, when it was cooler.

The bottom line was, "it kept me out of trouble," he said.

It also helped him develop skills that, until his senior year in high school, he thought might earn him a basketball scholarship at a major university. At the very least, he figured, he would play basketball in college. And if the right school came calling, he might be able to play football, too.

When he was in junior high, he even began a list of schools with notable basketball, football and track (he was successful in track, too) programs that he might eventually consider.

The only schools he can remember being on his list were UCLA, Southern California and Florida State, because Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward also played basketball.

His interest in the two California schools was a result of his having played for the Omaha Bears youth team in tournaments in Los Angeles and Las Vegas one summer. He was so taken by Los Angeles that he called his mom and told her he wanted to stay. She managed to persuade him otherwise.

He would be a long way from home, she said, and there would be the danger of earthquakes.

"I thought about that," Thomas said. "It kind of changed my mind."

It didn't change his mind about playing basketball in college, however. That wouldn't happen until Nebraska offered him a football scholarship before his senior season in basketball. Rather than risk waiting to see which schools, if any, offered him basketball scholarships, he accepted. "I was afraid if I passed up a scholarship from a No. 1 (football) school like this, I would regret it," he said.

Plus, Nebraska told him he could play basketball, too, after he established himself. Thomas joined Coach Barry Collier's first team and was one of the first players off the bench last season.

Although playing basketball prevented him from participating in football's winter conditioning program, the experience will make him a better football player, according to Thomas.

Basketball "gives you more of an insight as far as being a mediocre team, different trials and tribulations," he said. "Sometimes with football, you can go through the motions because you feel as a team you're so much more superior to other teams. It (basketball) keeps you interested."

"It keeps your mind going, gives you a reason to really work hard."

Thomas, whose strength was as a defender, hopes to play basketball again next season. "If I'm healthy, as long as the coaches agree with it, I still definitely plan to do it," he said.

He is focused now, however, on football and on providing leadership at a position beside which there is a question mark, drawn because of inexperience. Thomas, senior John Gibson and junior Troy Hassebroek are the Cornhuskers' only experienced wide receivers.

Thomas, who has caught just one pass in two seasons, is more optimistic about the wide receivers than statistics might justify. "Just because people haven't been able to make plays yet doesn't mean they can't," he said. "You can't just cut out people because you haven't seen them. I think there are plenty of people that can make plays. If you couldn't make plays, how would you get here?"

Plus, pass catches aren't the sole measure of a Cornhusker wide receiver's worth.

"You can make plays with the ball. And you can make plays without the ball," Thomas said. "Everybody on the field has to make plays in order for the team to win."

In the case of the wide receivers, making plays means downfield blocking, something for which, at 6-foot-5 and 205 pounds, Thomas is well-suited, but something on which, like just about every other wide receiver who comes to Nebraska, he has had to concentrate.

Blocking is "how you get your foot in the door," he said. "When you come in as a freshman, you really have no clue on how important blocking is, and really how to do it."

"It takes a lot of work and time . . . playing time at this level."

Blocking can be therapeutic, a release for the frustrations associated with a physical game. But it is definitely not a solitary activity. And it can't be learned at night, in one's own backyard. ■

PERSONNEL

SPLIT END Returning

Wilson Thomas
Ben Zajicek
John Klem

Lost

Matt Davison
Tom Beveridge
Seth Gutz

WINGBACK Returning

John Gibson
Troy Hassebroek
Ben Cornelson
Fred Thorne
Lost
Bobby Newcombe

OUTLOOK

Although it was assumed that Gibson would be granted an additional season of eligibility, Nebraska breathed a sigh of relief when the official announcement came in early May. "John's an excellent receiver, who made some big catches last year," said Coach Frank Solich.

Gibson had eight receptions, with two of the biggest coming on the winning drive in the final minute against Colorado. Thomas is the only other returning wide receiver who caught a pass last season.

As a result, wide receiver is something of a question. "Certainly, (in) other areas, we have some inexperience, but that's a spot where we're going to need people to step up," Solich said.

Cornelson and Zajicek could be among those who do, but they were limited by injuries in the spring. "That was discouraging and a little bit disappointing for us," said Solich.

Junior split end Wilson Thomas showed his potential in the Spring Game, leading all receivers with four catches for 47 yards.





TIGHT END

Finally, after four years, Tracey Wistrom is satisfied. The senior tight end weighed 235 pounds during spring practice, and "I think that's a good weight for me right now," he said.

"I'm not in any hurry to put on a ton more weight. I don't know how effective I would be if I played with more weight, if I could be an effective route runner and receiver.

"I played at 235 this spring and I was pretty pleased with how things went."

Wistrom's weight has been the subject of numerous stories about him during his distinguished career at Nebraska, probably more often than not. But such redundancy hasn't necessarily been a result of lack of imagination on the part of those who have interviewed him. It has been unavoidable. His size, and its implications, have been issues from the beginning, when he followed his brother Grant to Nebraska, arriving as a 195-pound candidate at a position requiring much heavier athletes.

Tracey was intent on playing tight end. He never considered another position, "just because I really always thought I had everything it took to be a tight end; I just didn't have the size yet," he said. "That's one of the reasons I came here, the strength program and everything like that.

"I knew they could put the size on me. I thought that was the only thing I was lacking. It took me a while. But I really felt eventually I could become a good tight end here."

Wistrom has been more than good. He has been first-team All-Big 12 the past two seasons, and if he earns that recognition again, he will become the first Cornhusker tight end ever to be first-team all-conference three times. And there's no reason to think that won't happen.

"Tracey is an All-American player," said receivers coach Ron Brown. "He has put himself in position to certainly be one of the best tight ends in college football."

Only two Cornhusker tight ends have ever received first-team All-America honors, Junior Miller in 1979 and Tony Jeter in 1965. Though Wistrom almost certainly has comparable ability, he would have to overcome significant obstacles in order to join them as a third.

For one thing, Nebraska doesn't throw the ball enough to anyone, much less the tight end, to attract a lot of attention. And for another, even at 235 pounds, Wistrom isn't big for a tight end.

Still, he was named to the Associated Press All-America third team and was among eight semifinalists for the John Mackey Award, presented to college football's top tight end, last season.

Wistrom has compensated for lack of bulk with tireless determination. He's "got a fire that just doesn't seem to stop," Brown said. "He makes the most out of his blocking ability."

It is as a receiver, however, that Wistrom has excelled. His 827 career-receiving yards rank third at Nebraska all-time among tight ends, behind Miller's 1,045 and Jerry List's 901.

Wistrom's 37 career receptions rank 10th at Nebraska among tight ends. And his career-yards-per-reception average of 22.4 ranks first among all Cornhusker receivers.

Robb Schnitzler, a split end from 1984 to 1986, is second on the list, with a 21.6 average. Wistrom also has made the most of his receptions. Each of his 19 catches last season produced either a touchdown — he scored five, and has eight for his career — or a first down, including the dramatic third-down pass from quarterback Eric Crouch in overtime at Notre Dame.

"He has studied how to get open," said Brown.

That study has included watching former Cornhuskers Sheldon Jackson, a tight end, and Matt Davison, a split end who ranks second at Nebraska in career receptions. "It seemed like they were always creative, coming up with new ways to run routes," Wistrom said. "Just watching those things, even when you're redshirted, you can always pick up something by paying attention."

Someone less determined might not have survived Wistrom's redshirt season. It was physically demanding not only because he was unusually light but also because of brother Grant, an All-American rush end who also had to deal with the problems of being undersized for his position.

"I took my hits just like everybody else, and maybe a few more because whoever I was going against may have taken a couple from Grant and they might not have been able to take it out on him," Tracey said of playing on the scout team as a redshirt. "So they took it out on me instead."

That first year, he regularly lined up against his brother and Mike Rucker, who also is playing in the NFL now. "I was getting tossed around like a rag doll," said Tracey. "There were some times after practice or waking up the next day that I didn't know if I was going to be able to get out of bed.

"But you just kind of push through it. You realize you're going to have to adjust. You're going to have five years here, so you might as well get used to the beating."

Brown acknowledges there was some question about Wistrom early on, "just his physical strength," Brown said. "I think that was the thing we were all wondering a little bit about."

Such questions have long since been answered. With each passing year, Wistrom has looked more and more the part he has played. "The more you worry about it, the slower the weight comes on, it seems like," he said. "So I finally just realized that I wanted to avoid scales."

That's no longer the case. He thinks he is heavy enough now. And he can see the value, "especially running with the ball," he said. "I feel like I might break a few more tackles."

After four years of trying, "I feel like I can deliver a little more punch at contact." ■

PERSONNEL

TIGHT END Returning

Tracey Wistrom
Aaron Golliday
Jon Bowling
Kyle Ringenberg

Lost

Jake McKee
John Murphy

OUTLOOK

Wistrom is among only five Nebraska tight ends who have been selected first-team all-conference in back-to-back seasons. The others, all of whom played in the NFL, are Johnny Mitchell (1990-91), Jamie Williams (1981-82), Junior Miller (1978-79) and Tony Jeter (1964-65).

Despite Trevor Johnson's move to rush end, tight end remains well-stocked. The Cornhuskers have so many tight ends that Chris Septak and Phil Peetz, both scholarship recruits, weren't included on the post-spring depth chart. Ringenberg, a walk-on who moved from rush end, was.

Ringenberg and Septak, like Wistrom, have had difficulty gaining and maintaining weight.

Wistrom's skills allow him to be used in various ways. Golliday, who was hampered by a shoulder problem last season, has unlimited potential when healthy, while Bowling is a receiving threat.

All-Big 12 tight end Tracey Wistrom had 19 receptions for 314 yards and five touchdowns last season. Each of his receptions went for a first down or a touchdown.

OFFENSIVE LINE

PERSONNEL

LEFT TACKLE

Returning

Dave Volk
Nate Kolterman
Scott Koethe
Tim Green

LEFT GUARD

Returning

Toniú Fonoti
Mike Erickson
Jake Anderson
Lost
Chris Saalfeld

CENTER

Returning

Jon Rutherford
John Garrison
Matt Shook
Dave Kolowski
Lost
Dominic Raiola

RIGHT GUARD

Returning

Wes Cody
Jon Dawson
Junior Tagoa'i
Lost
Russ Hochstein

RIGHT TACKLE

Returning

Dan Waldrop
Chris Loos
Kyle Kollmorgen
Lost
Jason Schwab

Jon Rutherford planned to major in business management. In his first math class, however, "I was totally lost," he said. So he switched to a major in communications studies.

He made the decision to switch during the second semester of his freshman year at Nebraska. And he hasn't reconsidered. "I'm one-dimensional in school," he said with a laugh.

The senior from Midwest City, Okla., is definitely not one-dimensional on the football field, though. Rather, he is one of the most versatile offensive linemen in Cornhusker history.

"He's special," said offensive line coach Milt Tenopir. "Jon is the kind of kid that you could plug in at more than one spot and he would function very effectively."

Despite his use of "could" and "would," Tenopir wasn't speaking theoretically. He has plugged in Rutherford at more than one spot, and Rutherford has functioned very effectively.

He played all five interior line positions last season, beginning as the top back-up at both guards and center and finishing as the top back-up at both tackles and center — though he suffered a torn left ACL against Kansas and missed the final two games, including the Alamo Bowl.

"You won't find many guys who can do that," Tenopir said.

A lineman who can do that must have not only the ability to adjust but also a willingness to do something that might be

contrary to his own self interest, all for the good of the team.

Switching positions "affects different kids in different ways," said Tenopir. "One thing about Jon, he's a tremendous role-conscious individual. He came to me last fall and says, 'Coach, play me wherever you feel I would help the team most.' That's truly the way the kid believes."

Near the end of spring practice, most of which Rutherford missed following knee surgery, Tenopir told him, "Jon, I really am up in the air yet to say 'I'm going to plug you in here, I'm going to plug you in there.' But I said, 'You will have the opportunity to compete for the No. 1 job.'"

Rutherford, who was listed first at center on the post-spring depth chart — sharing with junior John Garrison — had no problem with continued uncertainty about where he'll be playing.

"It doesn't matter to me. I mean, I've been doing this my whole career and I know all the positions. So it's not going to be a big factor. I'll be able to work on everything," he said.

"I kind of like it. Being moved around all the time, it's a new challenge every day."

Despite his place on the post-spring depth chart, Rutherford might not end up as Dominic Raiola's successor at center. If Garrison continues to get stronger and Shook improves his quickness in the summer conditioning program, "to

Jon Rutherford was the offensive line's "sixth man," backing up Dominic Raiola at center and playing both guard and tackle, before a knee injury in the Kansas game on Nov. 4 ended his junior season.



As a sophomore first-year starter, left guard Toniú Fonoti shattered Nebraska's single-season record for pancake blocks with 155 in 11 games.

OUTLOOK

Fonoti and Volk give Nebraska an outstanding left side. Although Fonoti will get most of the attention for post-season awards such as the Outland Trophy, Volk, a two-year starter, is in the same category, according to Tenopir. "He's made himself into a very good football player."

Garrison made excellent progress during the spring, enough to possibly free up Rutherford for right guard or right tackle, positions at which there also is little or no significant experience.

With the quality of young players at those positions, the future appears bright. But the future needs to be now for a couple of those players if the Cornhuskers are to make a run at their goals.

Another key issue is health, specifically of Loos and Dawson. Rutherford recovered sufficiently from his knee surgery to participate in non-contact drills near the end of spring practice.



where we're comfortable enough to feel we can win with one of those two guys (at center), then I would consider putting Jon at either a tackle or a guard," Tenopir said.

The Cornhuskers will have new starters at both of those positions on the right side, and Rutherford could be the starter at one of them, if he doesn't end up starting at center.

One thing is for certain. "He's not going to go in (to fall camp) labeled as the 'swing guy,'" said Tenopir. "He could be a starter for us. And he will have that opportunity."

Even if Rutherford becomes the starting center, Tenopir probably would continue to use him as a back-up at one of the other positions. "He

doesn't lose effectiveness by switching positions because he understands the offense so well," Tenopir said. "It's not ideal, but he can do it."

Rutherford, a tackle in high school, had never played center before last season. But Tenopir decided to try

"I kind of like it. Being moved around all the time, it's a new challenge every day."

— Offensive lineman Jon Rutherford

him there to provide an occasional break for the durable Raiola, who rarely took one.

The first few practices at center "I had a lot of missed snaps because your head's going everywhere. But after you do it for a while, it should become part of your technique and not even cross your mind," Rutherford said. "You've got to be really focused on what you've got to do."

He didn't know going into a game if he was going to play some at center, because Raiola never seemed to wear down. However, he always knew whether he would be the swing guard or the swing tackle in a particular game. Tenopir's confidence in him was such that he would be told beforehand to rotate at one position or the other after the first couple of series. The rest was left to him.

So he would wait two series before checking in at guard or tackle. He would play a series on the right side, move to the left side for a series, come out for a series and then repeat the sequence.

For example, "it was like, 'Schwabbie (former tackle Jason Schwab), I'm going in (for) this one.' 'All right,'" said Rutherford. "We just kind of ran that cycle throughout the season."

One of the hardest parts of his job is remembering which side he's on. But that's one of the qualities that makes him unique. He has had a good understanding of the offense and the responsibilities of all the interior linemen since his sophomore season, when he was backing up mostly at tackle.

His attitude toward learning to play center indicates why he's been so successful. Even though he had never played there, "it wasn't that big of a deal," he said. "It was just a role I had to play. They asked me if I'd be willing to do it, and whatever they want me to do, I'll try. And I'll do my best."

Good at math or not, that certainly has added up for Rutherford. ■

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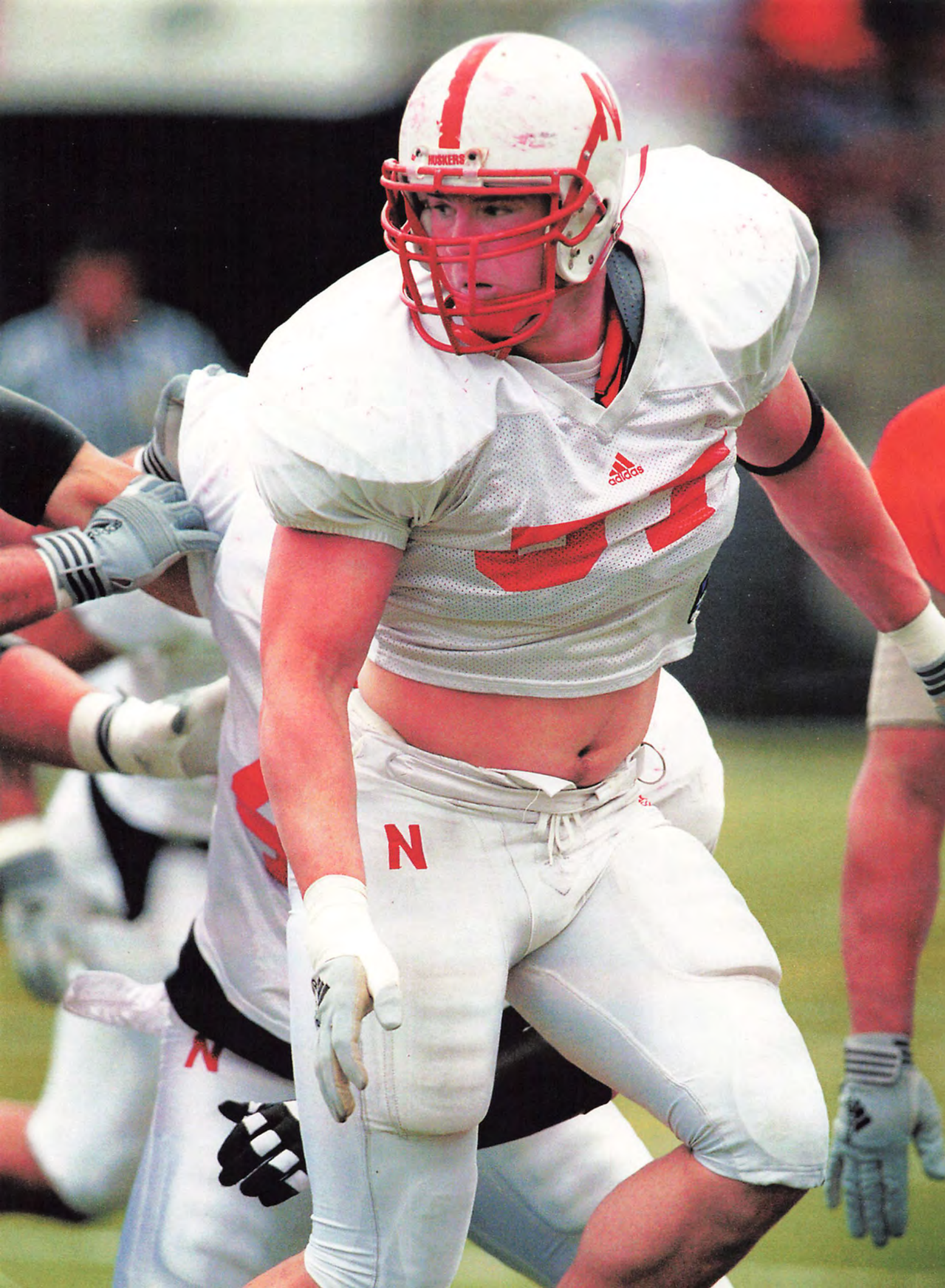


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RUSH END

Being compared to his brother, Chad, isn't a problem for Chris Kelsay. Nebraska's junior rush end accepts such comparisons, and maybe even encourages them indirectly.

He wears a No. 57 jersey just as Chad did. He wore No. 34 as a redshirted freshman in 1998, Chad's senior season. But when Chad left, "I wanted to have his jersey," Chris said.

"I thought it would be a good deal, so I went ahead and asked for No. 57."

He followed the example of former Cornhusker brothers Christian and Jason Peter, both of whom wore a No. 55 jersey.

"You look to the past," said Kelsay. "It's kind of a tradition."

He was motivated by more than tradition, however. "I like being compared to my brother," Chris Kelsay said. "He's a good person to be compared to. He's a great guy."

Comparisons are inevitable when one brother follows another. Others on this year's Nebraska team who have done so are Dion Booker, Mark Vedral, Tracey Wistrom, Dan Burrow, Tyler Toline and Tommicus and Treoun Walker. Two brothers preceded Vedral at Nebraska, Mike and Jon.

Kelsay is not only following his brother but also playing the same position his brother did, left rush end. That adds to the potential for comparison, and the attendant pressure.

"Some people will compare Chad and Chris," said rush ends coach Nelson Barnes. "I don't. They're two different people. Chris brings to the table some things that Chad did not."

Chris is bigger and maybe a step faster. And "in my opinion, I think Chris is a little meaner," Barnes said. "He's got a bit of a mean streak in him out on the football field. But I certainly wouldn't say that he's tougher than his brother because that's just promoting a fight. So I wouldn't do that."

Chris acknowledges he's bigger than his brother, who now works in the insurance business in Omaha following a brief career in the NFL. Height and weight can be measured. As for the speed, however, "I don't know," Chris said. "I might be a step faster, but I don't like to . . ."

He prefers to focus on the similarities. "We're almost exact opposites in our physical makeup, but I think we both have the same work ethic and competitive drive," he said.

That competitive drive was cause for frustration early last season. Chris started slowly, for a variety of reasons, including the emotional burden brought on by the murder of his grandfather and the physical drain of a bout with mono, which didn't clear up until after the season had begun.

He felt sluggish during pre-season practice, and "I'd sleep a ton," he said.

Once fall-semester classes began, he would get home from practice and sleep. Then he would wake up, go to class and practice, and then repeat the cycle. "I just couldn't catch up on my sleep," he said. "I was always drowsy and tired. I thought it was just my body adjusting."

The effects of the mono made a difficult personal situation worse. "It was a really depressing time," he said. "I have high expectations, high goals for myself, and coming into camp, I wasn't meeting them. I was getting really disturbed. It was a time that was kind of a struggle for me."

On top of everything else, he had missed the previous spring because of an abdominal injury. Even so, he went into the fall sharing the top spot on the depth chart with Demoine Adams and Justin Smith. Adams won the starting job during two-a-days, and the Blackshirt that went with it.

Kelsay didn't earn a Blackshirt until a month into the season, based on his play in the first four games. "I think he earned it probably the best way you could do it," said Barnes. "It was a battlefield promotion, so to speak. It's one thing to earn something before the bullets are actually fired. He earned his (by) proving himself in games, proving that he was deserving, which, I think, was a nice deal for him."

Even though he started one game as a redshirted freshman, filling in for an injured Kyle Vanden Bosch, he had yet to be awarded a Blackshirt. He was included in a photo of Blackshirts taken during the spring, however, which led to a misconception that he had a Blackshirt and then lost it.

"It was kind of funny," he said. "They asked me to be in the picture, but I was never awarded a Blackshirt. I don't know if they just wanted me to fill in or figured I'd get one."

In the process of earning a Blackshirt, Chris also earned the respect of his teammates, according to Barnes. So even though he's just a junior, he'll provide some leadership on defense this fall.

"To me, the first thing a leader has to do is earn respect," said Barnes. "You've got to earn the respect of your peers. If you never earn the respect of your peers, you can never be a leader."

Chris is like his brother that way, too. Chad was a co-captain as a senior. And like Chad, Chris is an excellent student, earning first-team academic all-conference recognition twice already.

Some might shy away from following a successful brother. There is definitely pressure on Chris because of that. But "I think he puts it on himself," Barnes said. "I don't think anyone here has ever compared him to Chad. Chad is Chad. Chris is Chris. They're two different people."

Although there was sibling rivalry when they were younger, that's long since changed. "Even though he's my brother, he's almost my best friend, too," Chris said. ■

PERSONNEL

LEFT RUSH

Returning

Chris Kelsay
Justin Smith
J.P. Wichmann

RIGHT RUSH

Returning

Demoine Adams
Trevor Johnson
Bernard Thomas

Lost

Kyle Vanden Bosch
Brandon Mooberry
Matt Grummert

OUTLOOK

Barnes has indicated he would like to have five or even six players in a regular rotation. Not surprisingly, Kelsay and Adams finished atop the post-spring depth chart. They offer marked contrasts in size and style of play, with Adams relying on speed and quickness to get the job done.

Johnson's move from tight end during the spring has bolstered the position. Barnes was pleasantly surprised by his ability to make the transition in just 15 practices, but it wasn't a complete shock considering he played rush end in Nebraska's summer camp while in high school.

"So when we recruited him, we thought that he could potentially have been one of those players," said Barnes. The other rush ends "saw him as a guy that could come over and help."

Junior rush end Chris Kelsay, a two-time first-team academic all-conference selection, started the last seven games in 2000.



DEFENSIVE TACKLE

Jeremy Slechta smiled at the recollection. "That's one of the few highlights that I do have, that I was kind of proud of," he said. "I thought it was pretty neat."

He referred to his interception against Kansas last season. On a third-down-and-10 late in the third quarter, Slechta picked off a Dylon Smith pass, despite a broken right hand.

PERSONNEL

NOSETACKLE

Returning

Jason Lohr
Jon Clanton
Manaia Brown
Ryon Bingham

Lost

Brian Wanish

TACKLE

Returning

Jeremy Slechta
Casey Nelson
Patrick Kabongo

Lost

Loran Kaiser
Matt McGinn

Slechta acted on instinct. "I remember I put my cast up in the air and put my other hand underneath and just kind of used my cast to stop it," he said. "Then I grabbed it with my other hand."

"It's kind of funny because there were games before that where I'd drop back like that and the guy would throw the ball and it would hit me right in the hands. I didn't have a cast on and I'd drop it. I don't know if that says anything about my hands and why I'm playing d-line."

The 6-foot-6 senior from LaVista (Neb.) might have been able to catch one or two of the six passes he broke up last season. But that's not the reason he plays defensive tackle.

Besides, Slechta has excellent hands, according to defensive line coach Jeff Jamrog. He also has "excellent quickness," said Jamrog. "He's rangy. He's a technician."

And he has the talents of an All-Big 12 defensive tackle.

"If he has a great off-season, a great summer, and stays healthy, boy, I think he can have a big-time senior year," Jamrog said. "I'm hoping he has the senior season Steve

Warren had."

Warren, who was bothered by a bad back his first three seasons at Nebraska, was first-team all-conference in 1999, and a third-round draft pick of the Green Bay Packers.

Slechta, like Warren, played as a true freshman. And like Warren, he has been bothered by injuries. He missed four games and was limited in another because of a knee injury as a sophomore, and he suffered the broken right hand on the first play of the second half of last season's Oklahoma game.

He's not sure exactly how the break occurred. His middle finger "got bent the wrong way or something," he said. "I could feel it snap and then it hurt real bad. I was trying to squeeze my hand, trying to keep it loose. I could see when I was squeezing it the bone kind of popped up."

So he went to the sideline. The hand was put in a cast. And he continued playing.

Though he didn't miss any playing time because of the broken hand, the cast was a hindrance. Defensive linemen depend heavily on the use of their hands, and "having a cast on . . . I mean, my fingers weren't even showing through so I couldn't grab anything," said Slechta.

"It was really frustrating. As big as the cast was, once you got all the padding on it and stuff, it seemed like something you were dragging along. You got it in between guys or something and it would slow you down. You couldn't pull it out as easily as you would just your hand. It (the cast) was an easier thing for the offensive linemen to get hold of. It was getting in the way."

The cast was removed the week before the Colorado game, but he didn't regain full use of the hand until the Alamo Bowl game. A month later, his right hand was back in a cast, following a freak accident in which the hand was crushed between a workbench and a cattle guard on a pickup truck.

Slechta went through spring practice, but his right wrist and forearm were weak from wearing the cast and he wasn't in the best physical condition. He couldn't participate in Nebraska's off-season program. He couldn't lift because of the cast and he couldn't run because of arthroscopic knee surgery.

He's philosophical about the off-season injury. "I wish it hadn't happened," he said. "But I can't do anything about it. Of course, I look at it the other way, too. If I would have been another foot to the right, instead of just being my hand over there, it could have been my legs in between the truck."

"That could have been career-ending for me. Who knows what that would have done to me. So in a way, I guess I kind of feel like I was lucky it was just my hand, and just one finger, too."

His right index finger was crushed. "I've got four left," Slechta said.

When he's healthy, Slechta can be dominant-



Jason Lohr, who started every game at nose tackle last season, underwent back surgery in April but is expected to be ready in the fall. He has played in 35 games as a Husker, including 12 as a true freshman in 1998.

OUTLOOK

With the prospect of a healthy Slechta as a cornerstone, Coach Frank Solich is optimistic about the defensive line's potential. "I think it can be a strong point for us," he said.

The move of Brown from rush end bolstered an already deep position. He could be a situational player, as could a trimmed-down Kabongo. Lohr underwent back surgery in late April but is expected to be ready in the fall, as is Bingham, who has yet to have the opportunity to show what he can do.

Clanton is the most athletic and fastest of the group. Brown is probably the strongest.

Nelson has proven to be a reliable backup, even though he often gets overlooked. But "if you start adding up his snaps last year, he really contributed," said Solich.

Senior Jeremy Slechta gained valuable experience as a backup to Loran Kaiser and started four games at defensive tackle when Kaiser was sidelined with an ankle injury.

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ing. "You put together 10 plays from last season before he broke his hand and those are highlight-reel, all-conference type plays," said Jamrog.

Slechta's sack of Notre Dame quarterback Arnaz Battle for a 7-yard loss on third down at the Cornhusker 4-yard line in overtime would be among those 10 plays.

Jamrog expects more such plays this season, as does Slechta. "I know the ability is there to make plays. It's just, I've got to do it now," Slechta said. "I grade out well. As for technique, I'm playing my right gap and doing the right things. But the thing is, you don't want to stay at that."

"You're doing your job, great. But you want to be a playmaker. You want to be a guy that's going to get off blocks and make tackles for your team, help your team out. Instead of tackling the guy for a 1-yard gain, it would be a no-yard gain or a 1-yard loss. That's the kind of thing I'm focused on."

That and holding onto errant passes that come his way. "The ball was kind of thrown behind him," Jamrog said of the play in the Kansas game. "He goes up and catches it, with the cast on." ■

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LINEBACKER

Right place. Right time. "I was kind of lucky," Jamie Burrow told reporters following last season's Missouri game, describing what was to that point the highlight of his career.

Midway through the third quarter, just seconds after Missouri had scored to cut the Cornhuskers' lead to 28-21, Burrow scooped up a Zac Abron fumble and returned it 28 yards for a touchdown. The play shifted the momentum for good in Nebraska's 42-24 victory.

The ball "just kind of popped into my hands; I was fortunate," said Burrow, who was in the game at middle linebacker while starter Carlos Polk was on the sideline taking a break.

Although Burrow credited chance, and rush end Chris Kelsay for forcing the fumble, the play depended on his own effort, too. He moved the ball from his right hand to his left, away from the pursuit, as he shed a would-be tackler — Missouri center A.J. Ricker — then lowered his shoulder into quarterback Kirk Farmer, the only other Tiger with an opportunity to stop him, near the 10-yard line.

If he hadn't gotten by Farmer, Polk wouldn't have let him hear the end of it, he said.

Burrow looked like a running back on the play, and not just because of the way he changed hands with the ball and then raised it above his head as he crossed the goal line. He weighed less than 230 pounds at the time, which was good for his speed and quickness but not necessarily for his position.

"When you're lighter, it just feels a little better on your legs," he said this spring.

Burrow was listed at 225 pounds in the Cornhuskers' Alamo Bowl media guide. But he intends to weigh at least 245 pounds this season, when he replaces Polk in the middle.

He weighed 245 a year ago in the spring, but he was experiencing back problems and the coaches suggested he drop some pounds. The back problems subsided at the lighter weight.

Now, however, he's back over 240 pounds, out of necessity. Playing sparingly as Polk's back-up, he could afford to be lighter. "But when you're banging possibly for 30 to 50 reps (a game), you've just got to be bigger," he said. "Especially in the fourth quarter, you've got to be bringing it."

"Being a Mike linebacker in the Big 12, you may have to have a little bit of a gut."

To illustrate, consider the implications of trying to plug a hole that Cornhusker offensive guard Toniu Fonoti is intent on unplugging. Burrow has done that on occasion during practice. Fonoti is 6-foot-4 and 340 pounds. "I'd go head-up with him and he'd launch me back about 5 yards," said Burrow.

Though holding up against Fonoti is difficult regardless, Burrow has seen the difference weighing 245 can make. "Hitting someone in the hole, you can really stuff them up," he said.

Burrow has waited patiently for such an opportunity since coming to Nebraska from Ames, Iowa, four years ago. He backed up Polk the past two seasons, and it was "frustrating at times," he said after the Missouri game. "But not for one minute do I ever think that I'm better than Carlos."

"I'm just waiting my turn. Any opportunity I get is a blessing for me."

Senior Jamie Burrow, after playing in 35 games as a backup during his first three seasons, takes over at middle linebacker for All-American Carlos Polk.

It was such an attitude that enabled the Cornhuskers to recruit Burrow despite his having grown up with Iowa State football. Not only did he live in Ames but his father Jimmy, now a Nebraska graduate assistant, was on the staff of Coach Dan McCarney's predecessor, Jim Walden.

PERSONNEL

STRONGSIDE

Returning

Scott Shanle
Ira Cooper
Gabe Fries

Lost

Rod Baker

MIDDLE

Returning

Jamie Burrow
T.J. Hollowell
Tony Tata

Lost

Carlos Polk

WEAKSIDE

Returning

Mark Vedral
Blanchard Johnson
Jon Penny



Former walkon Scott Shanle became the starting strongside linebacker as a sophomore and finished fifth on the team in tackles with 55.

OUTLOOK

Defensive coordinator and linebackers coach Craig Bohl had to do some shuffling during spring practice to compensate for the absence of Randy Stella, who has been suspended indefinitely, and the loss of Tata to a knee injury, which could delay his return in the fall.

Stella, who was second on the team in tackles last season, could be reinstated, which "would be great," Coach Frank Solich said in late April. "But that remains to be seen."

Vedral stepped up and "probably played his best football this spring," said Solich.

Hollowell, a strongside linebacker as a true freshman, moved to the weakside until Tata went down then moved to the middle, so he could play any of the line-backing positions.

"Where he'll truly fit I think still remains to be seen," Solich said.



Mark Vedral was a valuable contributor as a backup to Randy Stella, finishing with 23 tackles in nine games. With Stella suspended, Vedral tops the depth chart at weakside linebacker entering the fall.

Burrow was on the sideline at Cyclone home games while his dad was a coach. But his dad also played at Nebraska in the mid-1970s, and his mom is from Omaha, so the Cornhuskers had similar appeal. He has always considered Nebraska's program the best in the nation. And he wanted to be a Cornhusker, even if it meant not playing as much as he would have liked while waiting his turn.

McCarney was the first to offer him a scholarship, early in his senior year at Ames High. But he told McCarney that he wasn't ready to make a decision, that he wanted to wait.

He didn't hesitate to accept Nebraska's scholarship offer, which came a couple of weeks later. But before he told the Cornhuskers yes, he talked to McCarney. "I just wanted to set it straight that I felt Nebraska was the place for me," he said. "I didn't want any hard feelings.

"I think he understood. Coach Mac is a great guy, a great coach. He understands that everyone has a place they feel the most comfortable. And for me it was here."

Burrow had no doubts about Nebraska.


"It was just a dream come true to even have Nebraska offer me a scholarship in the first place," he said. "I knew that by coming to Nebraska, they'd make me the best football player that I could be, regardless of how many years I (might have) played at another place."

"And if I didn't play at Nebraska, I would still know that I was as good as they (players at other schools) were. It would have made me the best football player I could be."


Burrow has had to be satisfied with contributing on special teams and as a back-up until now. But with Polk gone, he becomes the man in the middle of the Cornhusker defense.

Although he was hampered by a hamstring pull during spring practice, he played enough to feel comfortable going into this senior season. "I felt confident," he said following a Saturday scrimmage in which he was able to participate for a while. "That's the main thing, (that) you get out on the field and you're confident you can make a lot of plays that you may not think you can."

Now is his time. And Nebraska is his place. ■



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SECONDARY

The videotape was stored in the laundry room at Keyuo Craver's apartment. He came across it in late April, while he was cleaning the apartment in preparation for a move.

The videotape was of him playing in football games at Harleton, Texas, High School. It and copies had been sent to Nebraska and the other schools that were recruiting him.

Craver watched himself with the surprise that attends a return to the past. "I was like, 'My goodness, you were just a little old bitty, skinny boy, just running around there like a chicken,'" Craver said, punctuating the account with a seemingly omnipresent smile. "Goodness, that was me, about a buck-fifty, little bitty dude. Man, that was a long time ago."

Actually, it wasn't all that long ago. Craver was a member of the Cornhuskers' 1998 scholarship recruiting class, and he was one of three in that class who played as true freshmen.

The others were defensive tackles Jason Lohr and Jeremy Slechta.

Even so, Craver has changed markedly in his three years at Nebraska. He weighs considerably more than a "buck-fifty." He's listed at a solid 190 pounds. And he's much more at ease.

Not that he hasn't been confident in his ability since the day he stepped on campus. But he wasn't ready for the attention he attracted during freshman strength and conditioning tests.

He didn't consider himself a high-profile recruit, and it seemed as if he were surrounded by Parade All-Americans. "All the cameras were on them," he said, recalling that first day.

Since scholarship freshmen report before the varsity, they attract the sometimes-overwhelming media attention that goes with playing football at Nebraska for their first couple of days. And that attention was focused not only on the most-publicized recruits but also on those who tested well. The latter category included Craver, who was surprised by the interest his efforts generated.

"All of a sudden everybody wants to interview me," he said. "I was nervous because I'm 17 years old up here. Man, there's like 20 of these (writers) and four cameras, and they're all up on me, and I'm losing my breath. I'm like, 'Man, what am I going to do? What am I going to say?'"

"Then they asked me questions and I was trying to be all cool about it. I'm gasping for breath. It was kind of hard getting used to. But it was fun. I enjoy it. It's just part of the game."

Craver has done numerous interviews since then, enough to have to deal with the redundancy that often comes with familiarity. Reporters, of necessity, latch onto common themes.

"They'll say . . . the regular reporters, who are there every day, I mean, they're basically friends, and they're like, 'So, you're from Harleton, right?'" Craver said.

"And I'm like, 'Yeh.'"

"And they're like, 'So, uh, how big is Harleton?'"

"And I'm like, 'Man, you asked me that last year. It's still the same size, as far as I know.'"

"It gets kind of repetitive. But they're doing their job. I've got to do my job and do interviews. I mean, sometimes you get tired of it. But that's just the way things go."

Even though Craver won't celebrate his 21st birthday until Aug. 22, he's the grizzled veteran of the Cornhusker defense. Including two bowl games, he has 25 consecutive starts.

Erwin Swiney, also a cornerback, is the only defender with more total starts.



Senior right cornerback Erwin Swiney has the most career starts — 33 — of any current Husker.

PERSONNEL

LEFT CORNER Returning

Keyuo Craver
Pat Ricketts
Lornell McPherson

Lost

Dwayne McClary

FREE SAFETY Returning

Dion Booker
Willie Amos
Jerrell Pippens

Lost

Troy Watchorn
Eric Fischer

ROVER Returning

Lannie Hopkins
Aaron Terpening
Wes Woodward
Terrell Butler

Lost

Joe Walker
Clint Finley
Taylor Gehman

RIGHT CORNER Returning

DeJuan Groce
Erwin Swiney
Jeff Hemje

OUTLOOK

Craver and Swiney, who have nearly 60 starts between them, provide a solid base.

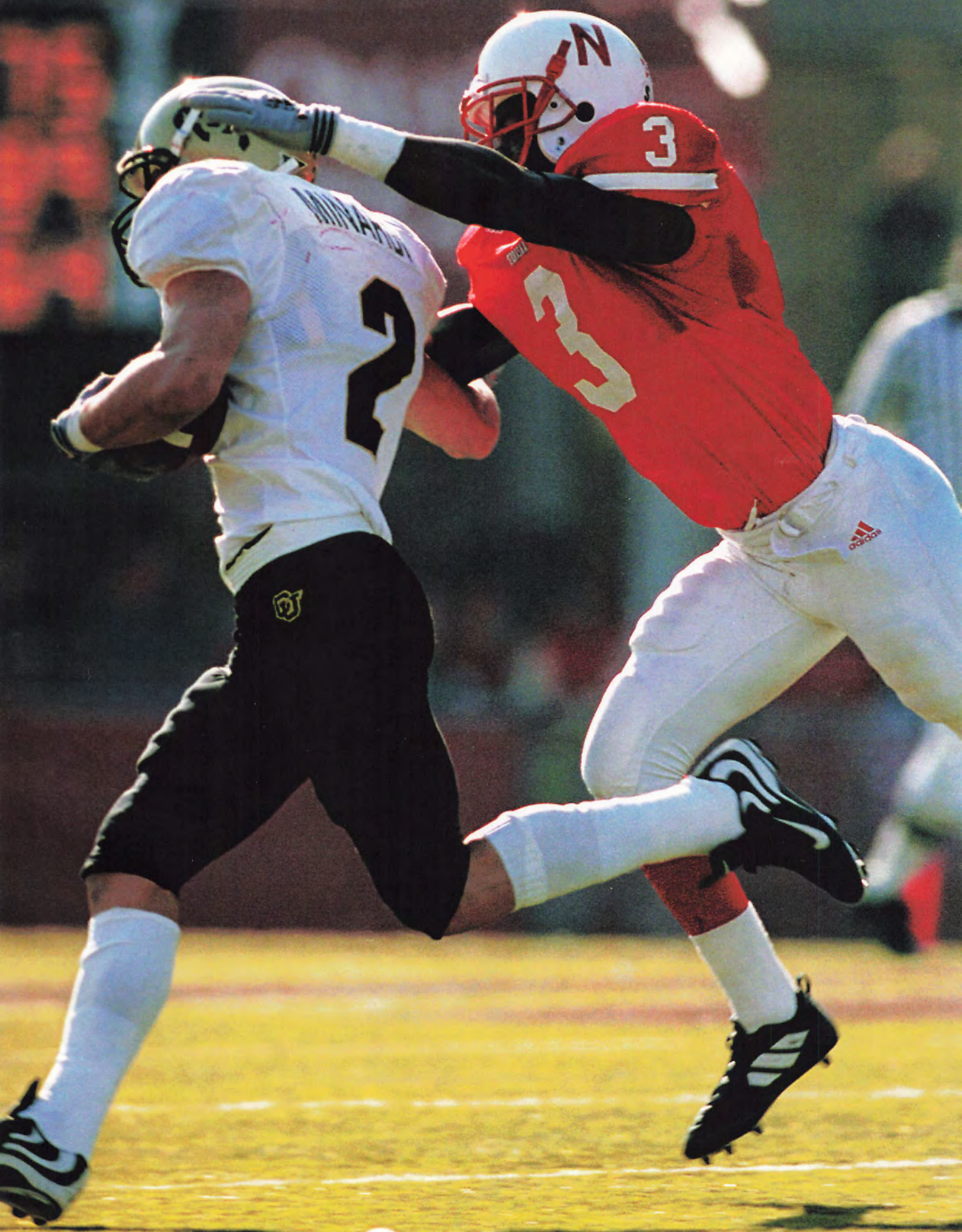
Groce was the newcomer at cornerback last season and as such was tested. He responded by setting a school single-season record by breaking up 17 passes. "He took that challenge on himself," said Craver. "I felt that he did a good job of rising to the occasion. It's all about paying your dues."

Booker, who had an excellent spring, has paid his dues at safety and can play either position, with Amos (free safety) and Hopkins (rover) as rising stars in the secondary.

Ricketts is a candidate to be the "nickel back."

The Cornhuskers ranked seventh nationally in pass efficiency defense last season and with a good pass rush should be able to have similar success in 2001.

Senior Keyuo Craver has started every game the last two seasons at left cornerback. He ranks second on Nebraska's all-time list for career pass breakups with 28.



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Craver ranks second on Nebraska's career list for pass break-ups with 28, one more than Swiney, following a junior season in which he broke up 13 passes and was tied for third in tackles with 56. He also scored two touchdowns on blocked punts — one by him, the other by Aaron Terpening.

Craver's junior season could have been his last at Nebraska if he had listened to people who encouraged him to consider submitting his name for the NFL draft.

"A lot of people were talking to me about it, even some players who are in the NFL talked to me about it. They were like, 'You have a shot and you can do it.' They told me, 'Keyuo, you'd be great here.' Of course I'm going to think about it. But I never considered it truly hard," he said.

Even some family members encouraged him to leave school early. But his mom wasn't among them, and that made the decision to stay easy. "I promised my mom before I came here, 'I'm going to get you that paper.' That's what she wanted," he said. "I think it would be all for nothing if I came up here for three years to school and then go play football (in the NFL) and have nothing to show for it."

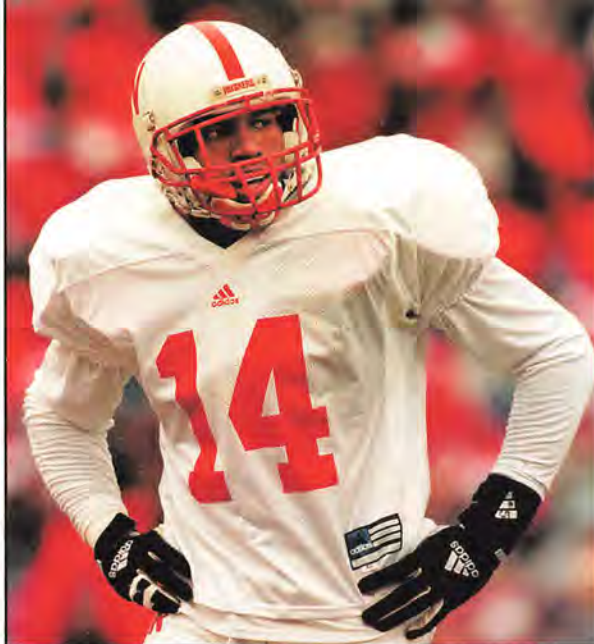
In addition to the promise to his mom, Craver hasn't accomplished everything he would like at Nebraska. "I'm not satisfied," he said. "I'm not saying that I haven't done anything. I try my best to help the team, and obviously I'm doing something if the coaches keep me out there."

"But I don't reflect on the things I've done. I'm always moving along, trying to get to where (other) people aren't at. I just want to go out as the best cornerback in this program. When people hear my name, I want them to know who I am. I want to do what I know I can do."

Many people who knew him in high school didn't expect him to have the immediate success he did. They "didn't think I was going to be playing my freshman year," he said. "A lot of people thought, he's a guy that's going to be playing his last two years of college. But I never think like that."

Still, he gained some understanding of other people's skepticism when he watched the videotape.

Back then, he was just a "little old bitty dude," he said. ■



Senior Dion Booker, who has played in 35 games as a Husker and started 11, can play both free safety and rover. He was listed No. 1 at both positions on the depth chart released after spring practice.

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SPECIAL TEAMS

The highlight for Josh Brown during the Red-White game, and probably during all of spring practice, was a block he made on a linebacker to help clear the way on a screen pass to I-back Thunder Collins.

Brown, who was lined up at split end, was supposed to "run my guy (defender) off" while the wingback made a crack-back block. Instead, "we did each other's job," said Brown.

The wingback ran off the defender, and Brown cracked back on a linebacker.

Brown doesn't recall which linebacker he blocked, or if he does, he isn't saying, maybe to avoid retribution. What he does recall is, the linebacker didn't see him coming until just before the collision.

"I got on him as quick as possible so he didn't get me," said the 6-foot-2, 190-pound Brown, Nebraska's returning starter at place-kicker. "Oh, I blasted him."

And, he was quick to point out, he used proper technique.

"I think I came in there correctly," he said.

The force with which he hit the linebacker knocked both of them off their feet. Afterward, offensive line coach Milt Tenopir "started calling me the 'butcher,'" Brown said.

"That was probably the only highlight I had in the spring game."

Well, there was also his catch of a Brett Lindstrom pass late in the first half.

He gained 5 yards on the out pattern. But "I wish it had gone for more," he said. "Unluckily, the defensive back read it correctly and got me. I caught it in the air and he got me coming down. If I had just had a split-second more to spin out or somehow get free, it would have been really nice."

Five plays later, on fourth-and-19 from the Red team's 30-yard line, Brown missed a 47-yard field goal, wide right. And, from his point of view, that miss offset anything else he could have done on an afternoon when freshman Sandro DeAngelis kicked field goals of 37, 48 and 37 yards.

Even though Brown has been the Cornhuskers' place-kicker the past two seasons, DeAngelis is challenging for the starting job. And while DeAngelis focused on kicking during the spring, Brown divided his time between kicking and playing split end — at the request of the coaches.

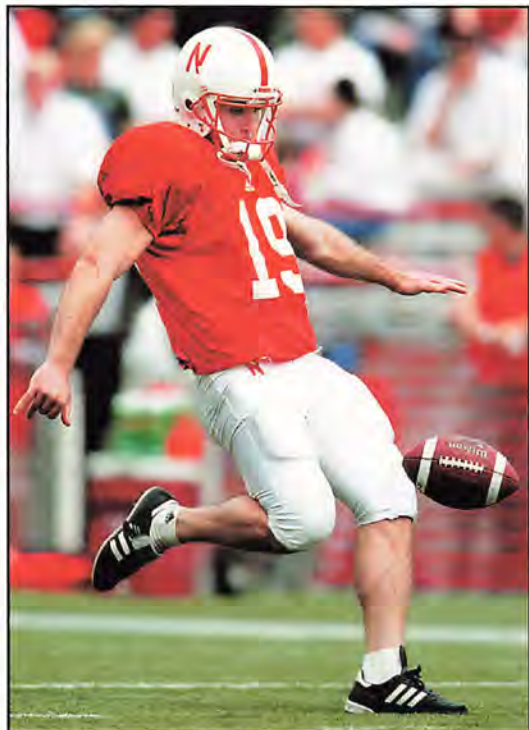
His experience at wide receiver was beneficial, Brown said, because "I kind of got a new feeling, a new passion for kicking. Having that competition and Sandro doing so well made me re-evaluate my feelings about it and helped me to understand my appreciation for it even more."

"I think it was a valuable lesson for me to learn as a kicker and a player."

Practicing with the receivers also gave him "a sense of where I am athletically, kind of to prove to myself that I'm still capable of doing things. So overall, I think it was very beneficial." Nevertheless, when spring practice was finished, he asked to be allowed to return to kicking full-time.

"It was my call," said Brown, who went to kickers coach Dan Young and then to Coach Frank Solich. "I said they have

Josh Brown, who hit the game-winning field goal against Colorado, will compete with redshirt freshman Sandro DeAngelis for the place-kicking duties.



Kyle Larson, who averaged 44.3 yards per attempt in the Spring Game, is expected to take over for Dan Hadenfeldt as the Husker punter.

OUTLOOK

Brown's concern about his job as the No. 1 place-kicker is well-founded. Even though he emerged from spring practice atop the depth chart, the competition between him and DeAngelis is, "I think, very tight," Coach Frank Solich said in releasing the depth chart. "Whether it will be answered in fall camp, I think there's a possibility of that. But it could go into early-season games to be answered."

"I think Sandro showed enough that he is certainly in competition for that job."

Brown and DeAngelis also will continue competing for the job handling kick-offs, while Larson appears to be the solid choice as Hadenfeldt's successor as the punter.

"Kyle's a little slow on his time, getting the ball off. But if he gets hold of one, it's just like Dan Hadenfeldt kicking," Brown said. "Those are things people haven't necessarily seen. I have."

the people they like to throw the ball to. And they have blockers.

"I said I don't feel it would be in the best interests of myself or this team to just become another blocker, especially when I'm not that good at it."

PERSONNEL

PLACE-KICKER

Returning

Josh Brown
Sandro DeAngelis

Lost

Chace Long

PUNTER

Returning

Kyle Larson
Josh Brown

Lost

Dan Hadenfeldt

KICK-OFF

RETURNER

Returning

Ben Cornelson
Josh Davis

Lost

Joe Walker
Bobby Newcombe
Correll Buckhalter

PUNT

RETURNER

Returning

DeJuan Groce
Keyuo Craver
Ben Cornelson
Terrell Butler

Lost

Bobby Newcombe
Joe Walker

HOLDER

Returning

Joe Chrisman
Kelly Cook
Eric Crouch

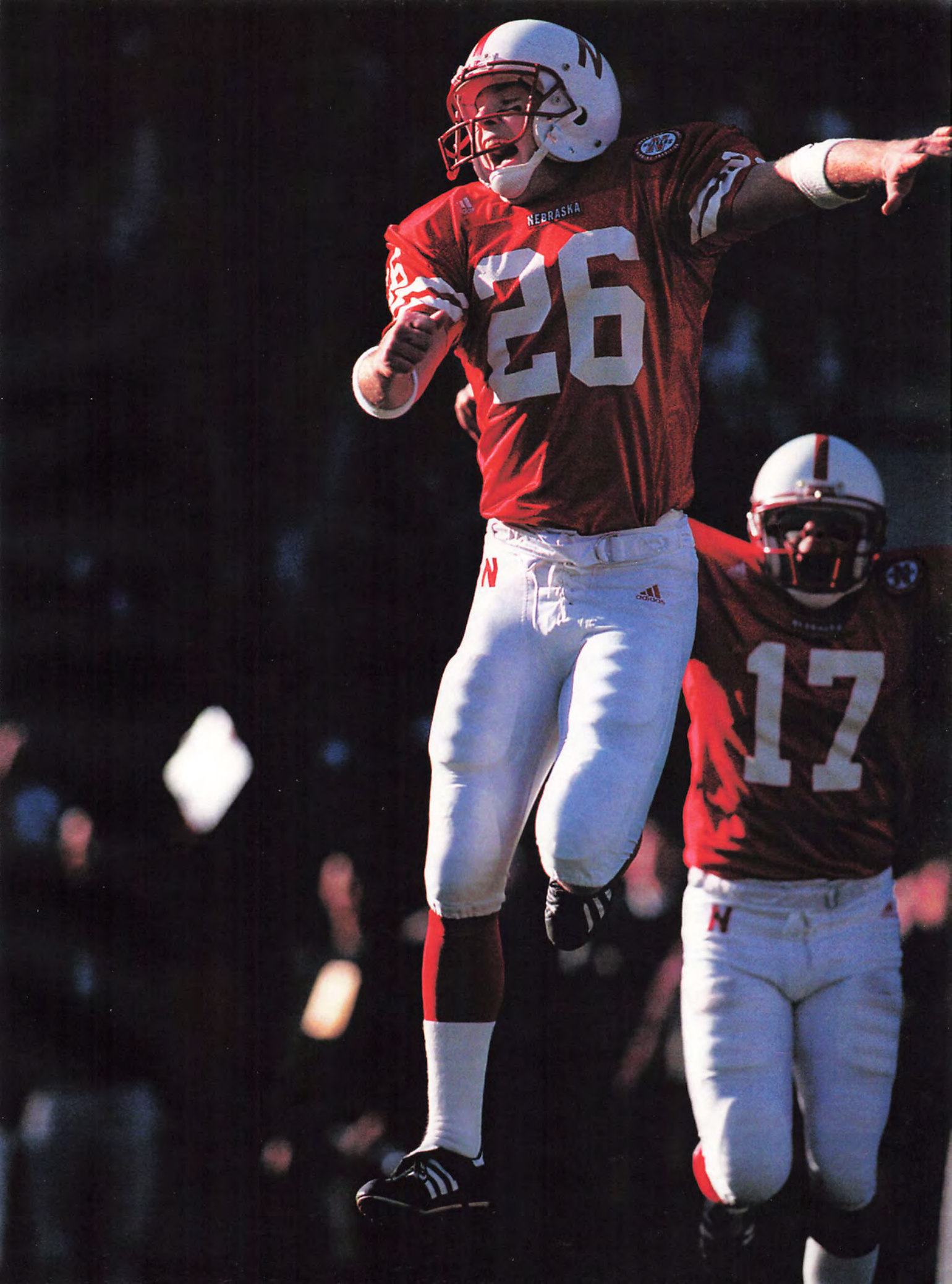
Lost

Dan Hadenfeldt

SNAPPER

Returning

John Garrison
Tracey Wistrom
David Kolowski



The crack-back block on the line-backer in the spring game notwithstanding, Brown struggled with blocking, despite help and encouragement from the other wide receivers.

"I had a lot of trouble with cut blocks," he said. "Boy, I just could not do that. I mean, I haven't done cut blocks since my senior year in high school. A lot of the stuff was old hat, stuff that I had to just re-familiarize myself with. But there was a lot that never goes into an eight-man scheme."

Brown played eight-man football in high school in Foyil, Okla., and "blocking down the field as a receiver isn't an option," he said. "You just run the man off in eight-man."

"I kind of got a new feeling, a new passion for kicking. Having that competition and Sandro doing so well made me re-evaluate my feelings about it and helped me to understand my appreciation for it even more."

— Place-kicker Josh Brown

But even if he had been able to pick up the blocking techniques more quickly, his experiment at wide receiver almost certainly would have ended. "Coach Solich agreed with

me that it would be better to be very good at one thing rather than being average at two," he said.

"I could understand doing it as a receiver if I was starting and making a major, major, eye-opening contribution to this team. But if I'm just going to be someone who's subbed in two or three times a game, I feel it would be better for me to help this team in the way I have so far."

And that is as a place-kicker, and back-up punter to sophomore Kyle Larson.

Solich, Young and receivers coach Ron Brown agreed. "I think we were all on the same page," said Brown. "I think the decision was going to be made whether I wanted it that way or not."

He plans to make up for lost time this summer, possibly working with a professional kicking coach and maybe with former Cornhusker Kris Brown, who now kicks for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Even though he committed himself to becoming the best wide receiver he could be during the spring, devoting time to that at the expense of kicking "kind of worried me," he said.

"I understand what Sandro's capable of, and taking those four weeks and putting most of my concentration into receiver allows him to catch up. If I allow him to get too close, or to get even with me or surpass me, then I've jeopardized myself. So there was a lot of worry."

That's why he felt a great sense of relief after meeting with Solich following spring practice. "The competition isn't over," he said. "It's still going on between Sandro and me."

"I'm still going to have to out-work him this summer."

Brown has experience on his side, and versatility. In the unlikely event he's ever called on to crack back on a linebacker, well . . . the "butcher" has proven he can do it. ■



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2001 PLAYERS CAPSULES

Capsules compiled by Steve Sipple

QUARTERBACKS

Eric Crouch **6-1, 200, Sr.** **Omaha, Neb.**

Crouch was sidelined during spring drills after undergoing surgery on his right (throwing) shoulder in January . . . He said he expects to be fully recovered in time for preseason camp in August . . . He underwent a similar procedure the previous January . . . In 2000 Crouch led all Division I-A quarterbacks with 20 touchdowns . . . He finished second among Husker rushers with 971 yards . . . He completed 48.1 percent of his passes, down from 52 percent in 1999 . . . He was named third-team All-Big 12 by the coaches.

Quarterback coach Turner Gill's comments: "I anticipate Eric coming back as strong as ever. I really don't have a concern. He'll step in and be ready to roll with the offense."



Jammal Lord **6-2, 215, So.** **Bayonne, N.J.**

For the second straight spring, Lord took the majority of snaps with the first-string offense while Crouch was sidelined . . . This spring, however, Lord avoided injury — he missed the last week and a half of spring drills 2000 with a knee injury . . . He played well in the Red-White Spring Game, completing 7 of 11 passes for 71 yards and rushing 11 times for 46 yards . . . He may be at his best when the offense breaks down and he has to improvise . . . A superb scrambler . . . Last season Lord completed 9 of 16 passes for 116 yards, with one interception.

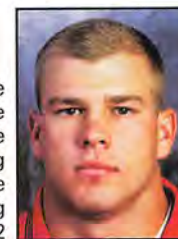
Gill's comments: "He had a very good spring — he pretty much did what I hoped to see him do. And that is to increase his passing accuracy. I have all the confidence in the world that, when called upon, he will get the job done for us and help us win football games. He can play at a level that would help us win championship football games."



Joe Chrisman **5-11, 190, Jr.** **Longmont, Colo.**

Chrisman saw some time running the top offense during the spring . . . He struggled in the Spring Game as he directed the No. 2 offense, completing only 1 of 6 passes for 22 yards . . . Last season he appeared in four games and gained eight yards on five carries . . . He didn't attempt a pass . . . In 1999, he gained three yards on two carries and was 0-for-4 passing . . . Sat out 1998 as a redshirt . . . He was an honorable-mention all-state selection at Longmont High School in 1997.

Gill's comments: "Joe has improved on his passing, and that's what I expect him to do well, because he's not quite as fast and quick as the other two young men, Eric and Jammal. We always want each person to do one thing very, very well."



I-BACKS

Dahrran Diedrick **6-0, 225, Jr.** **Scarborough, Ontario**

Diedrick emerged from spring practice as the clear front-runner at I-back . . . He rushed 18 times for 52 yards and a touchdown in the Red-White Game . . . He's capable of running around tacklers and running over them . . . He was the team's fifth-leading rusher in 2000 with 212 yards on 33 carries . . . He carried nine times for 69 yards against Baylor . . . In 1999 Diedrick rushed 57 times for 303 yards . . . He redshirted in 1998.



Running back coach Dave Gillespie's comments: "Dahrran reaffirmed that he has all the tools to be an excellent I-back. He's a guy who's going to do excellent things for us."

DeAntae Grixby **5-8, 205, So.** **Omaha, Neb.**

He's locked in a battle with Thunder Collins and Robin Miller for playing time behind Diedrick . . . He rushed four times for 14 yards in the Red-White Game . . . He's compact and built low to the ground . . . He played in 11 games last season — mostly on special teams — and rushed 10 times for 61 yards . . . He tore a knee ligament three days into 1999 spring practice and underwent reconstructive surgery . . . He was part of the 1998 recruiting class but delayed enrolling until January 1999 after undergoing shoulder surgery.



Gillespie's comments: "DeAntae did a lot of what we were looking for this spring — the main thing being he stayed healthy. I don't think he's 100 percent recovered (from the knee injury), but he's getting close."

Thunder Collins **6-2, 190, Jr.** **Los Angeles, Calif.**

Collins capped a strong spring with 55 yards on 13 carries in the Red-White Game . . . He appeared in three games last season and rushed 13 times for 77 yards, including 48 yards on six carries against Kansas . . . He was the Huskers' only running back in the 2000 recruiting class . . . He came to Lincoln from East Los Angeles Junior College, where he was considered one of the top five junior college running backs in the nation by rivals100.com . . . He rushed for 1,100 yards and 10 touchdowns as a senior at Manual Arts High School in LA.



Gillespie's comments: "On and off the field, he did the kind of things we were hoping for this spring. He's matured a lot. Going into fall camp, he'll have a lot of competition, but he'll be a guy who's in the picture."

Robin Miller **5-11, 225, So.** **Kent, Wash.**

Miller came on strong in the final stages of spring practice . . . He rushed 11 times for 49 yards and a touchdown in the Red-White Game . . . Last season Miller appeared in four games and rushed five times for 23 yards . . . He sat out 1999 as a redshirt . . . He was named Gatorade Player of the Year in Washington after his senior season at Kent-Meridian High School . . . He rushed for 1,726 yards and 16 touchdowns as a senior.



Gillespie's comments: "Robin made a tremendous amount of progress this spring. I'm excited to see what he can do in fall camp."

FULLBACKS

Judd Davies **6-0, 240, So.** **Omaha, Neb.**

Davies could be one of the offense's most potent weapons . . . He underwent surgery during the second week of spring drills to repair the bulging disc in his back . . . He wasn't scheduled to participate in spring practice because team medical personnel had first prescribed rest as a means to get him back on the field . . . When it was decided rest wasn't getting the sought-after results, he underwent outpatient surgery . . . He is expected to be at full speed for the start of fall camp . . . Last season Davies rushed 18 times for 183 yards and a touchdown.



Coach Frank Solich's comments: "Judd certainly has all the tools to be a terrific player. It's key for him to come back and be ready to go."

Steve Kriewald **5-10, 255, Fr.** **Scotia, Neb.**

Kriewald was one of the Huskers' most pleasant surprises of the spring . . . He impressed coaches with his bruising style of running . . . He sat out the 2000 season as a redshirt . . . He played eight-man football at North Loup-Scotia High School, rushing for 1,117 yards and 15 touchdowns as a senior while also making 169 tackles from his linebacker position . . . He was also recruited by several Division I schools for his prowess as a shot-putter.



Gillespie's comments: "I don't know if I expected Steve to blossom as quickly as he did. Fullback is a tough position to put it altogether. But he showed a good grasp of what we're trying to do."

Paul Kastl **5-10, 230, Jr.** **Lincoln, Neb.**

Kastl will battle Kriewald for playing time behind Davies . . . Last season Kastl appeared in six games and rushed six times for 26 yards . . . A walk-on, Kastl arrived on campus in 1998 weighing 190 pounds, about the size of Nebraska's smallest receivers . . . He was a speedy I-back at Lincoln Pius X High School, running the 40-yard dash in 4.7 seconds.



Gillespie's comments: "I thought Paul really had a good spring. He played with a lot of confidence, which really made a difference. He's put himself in a position where he's really competing for playing time."

SPLIT ENDS

Wilson Thomas **6-5, 205, Jr.** **Omaha, Neb.**

Thomas capped a solid spring with four catches for 47 yards in the Spring Game . . . He has only one career reception, but he is expected to step into a go-to receiver role this year . . . He missed three games last season with a sprained ankle . . . The team's tallest receiver, Thomas also boasts good speed and solid blocking skills . . . He played for the Nebraska basketball team during the second semester last year and averaged 1.8 points.



Receivers coach Ron Brown's comments: "Wilson had a real good spring. We intentionally tried to get Wilson into situations where he was a go-to guy . . . I thought he delivered well."

Ben Zajicek
6-0, 210, Fr.
Beatrice, Neb.

Zajicek missed most of spring practice with a hamstring injury . . . He sat out the 2000 season as a redshirt . . . A graduate of Beatrice High School, he was a three-year starter at I-back and free safety and also saw time at wingback and cornerback . . . Despite missing four games during his senior season with a shoulder injury, he rushed for 772 yards on 142 carries and was among the top tacklers on the team, helping Beatrice to its first winning season in five years.

Brown's comments: "Ben has excellent speed and quickness. He buzzes around. Yes, he's unproven. He has not ever lined up as a wide receiver. He was primarily a running back in high school. But I would challenge anybody to outwork Ben Zajicek."



Jon Bowling
6-3, 245, Jr.
Lincoln, Neb.

Bowling appeared in 11 games last season and caught four passes for 46 yards, including a 13-yard TD grab against Missouri . . . He came on strong late in the 1999 season when Wistrom was out with a knee injury . . . In the last two games of 1999, against Texas and Tennessee, Bowling made four catches . . . Bowling redshirted in 1998 after separating his shoulder early in fall camp.

Brown's comments: "He's improved his weight, his strength. His major forte is as a receiver. I mean, Jon is another guy who can really catch the football. He has great moves, probably as good of one-on-one moves as any receiver we have, to be honest with you."



John Klem
6-0, 200, Jr.
Lincoln, Neb.

Klem is regarded as a tenacious blocker . . . He grabbed a 19-yard touchdown pass in a spring scrimmage this past March . . . He was a first-team all-state soccer player at Lincoln East . . . A member of Nebraska's 1998 walk-on class.

Brown's comments: "Tough, hard-nosed kid from Lincoln East. John doesn't have great speed or quickness, but right now is probably our most physical blocker. Wilson can be a pretty physical blocker, too. But John brings to the table that role that we so much need at those wide-receiver spots."



WINGBACKS

John Gibson
6-0, 185, Sr.
Papillion, Neb.

The NCAA in April granted Gibson a sixth season of eligibility . . . He received the extra season because he missed the bulk of his first two seasons on campus due to shoulder and knee injuries . . . Sharing time with Bobby Newcombe last season, Gibson made eight catches for 41 yards and a touchdown . . . He made receptions of 6 and 9 yards in Nebraska's last-minute drive that led to the game-winning field goal against Colorado . . . Gibson was a prep All-American in 1995.

Solich's comments: "I think John really had a good year last year. He's a guy I think you can count on in terms of catching the ball. And he'll make the exceptional catch, like he did against Colorado."



TIGHT ENDS

Tracey Wistrom
6-5, 240, Sr.
Webb City, Mo.

Wistrom caught 2 passes for 25 yards in the Spring Game . . . He was a third-team All-American in 2000 after tying Bobby Newcombe for second on the team with 19 receptions . . . He finished second on the squad with 314 receiving yards . . . He's a two-time consensus All-Big 12 selection . . . He has been a big-play receiver throughout his college career, averaging a school-record 22.3 yards per catch . . . His 827 career receiving yards rank third all-time among Nebraska tight ends.

Brown's comments: "Tracey is an All-American player. He played like an All-American player this spring, just a guy who does everything for you. He's very versatile, very intelligent. And I thought he had a great blocking year last year, along with his reception ability."



Aaron Golliday
6-4, 285, Jr.
York, Neb.

When healthy, Golliday is an outstanding blocker with soft hands . . . Golliday struggled with a nagging shoulder injury last season but saw action in all 11 games . . . In two seasons, he has four receptions for 60 yards . . . He caught two passes in the Fiesta Bowl following the 1999 season . . . He suited up for the first game in 1998 before deciding to sit out the season as a redshirt . . . He puts the shot for the Husker track team.

Brown's comments: "Aaron has had the shoulder injury, and I think that's hampered him as much as anything; he just hasn't been able to explode. But you look at the bowl game last year, and the guy was a dominant, dominant blocker. And he's had games along his career where he's just ripped people. And then he's had games where he hasn't been as aggressive."



Troy Hassebroek
6-4, 220, Jr.
Lincoln, Neb.

He spent the spring season as the No. 1 wingback as Gibson waited to hear from the NCAA about his eligibility status . . . He played in all 11 regular-season games in 2000 and made his first career catch against Northwestern in the Alamo Bowl . . . He came on strong at the end of the 1999 season and earned a start against Tennessee in the Fiesta Bowl . . . He redshirted in 1998.

Brown's comments: "Hassebroek is a big, strong, physical wingback. You like to have guys like that year-in and year-out to go along with a shifty, speed guy like John Gibson. But Hassebroek gives us a physical kid that can come in on crack blocks."



Ben Cornelsen
5-10, 190, Jr.
Shawnee, Kan.

Cornelsen suffered an injured hamstring early in spring drills just as he was beginning to make an impression . . . He hauled in a 38-yard touchdown catch in Nebraska's first spring scrimmage . . . A walk-on, Husker coaches want him to improve his physical strength and his blocking . . . But they like his burst of speed and quickness and consider him a strong candidate to return punts.

Brown's comments: "Because of injuries, we haven't been able to evaluate him very much in game situations. Now, when you look at him in practice, he's quick, he has soft hands; he really catches the ball well. He's a very shifty guy and a good punt returner. So he's a guy I'm really counting on to stay healthy."



LEFT TACKLES

Dave Volk
6-5, 300, Sr.
Battle Creek, Neb.

Volk will start at tackle for the third straight season . . . His strong pass-blocking skills helped Nebraska hold foes to only 10 sacks last season . . . In 2000 he made a successful transition from right to left tackle . . . He finished fourth on the squad with 104 pancake (knockdown) blocks . . . He recorded a season-high 15 pancakes against Notre Dame.

Offensive line coach Milt Tenopir's comments: "He played well this spring. He's intelligent and he's a leader — a quiet leader."



Nate Kolterman
6-3, 330, Jr.
Seward, Neb.

Kolterman appeared in six regular-season games last season . . . He finished with seven pancakes, including six in a 59-0 thrashing of Baylor . . . He underwent arthroscopic surgery on both knees before the 2000 season and tore his left anterior cruciate ligament in April of 1999 . . . He was a first-team all-state selection at Seward High School as an offensive lineman in 1997.

Tenopir's comments: "He improved this spring — he picked up his intensity level. He tried to be more technique-conscious. He was a grabber. But he's more of a puncher now, which is what you need in this business."



LEFT GUARDS

Toni Fonoti
6-4, 340, Jr.
Hauula, Hawaii

Fonoti last season shattered Nebraska's single-season record for pancakes with 155 in 11 games (14.1 per game) . . . To put that in perspective, the school record was 140 in 12 games, by center Dominic Raiola in 1999 . . . In Nebraska's 66-17 win against Northwestern in the Alamo Bowl, Fonoti recorded a career-best 21 pancakes . . . All that despite playing the last three games with a cast on his broken right hand . . . He rebroke the hand during the winter and played with a splint all through spring.

Tenopir's comments: "He's a powerful young man. When he's healthy, he's as good as it gets."



Mike Erickson
6-4, 300, Fr.
Papillion, Neb.

He redshirted last season and gained about 25 pounds . . . He was a three-year starter at Papillion-LaVista High School for Coach Gene Suhr . . . An All-American by SuperPrep, he was its 30th-best offensive lineman nationally and also earned honorable-mention All-American honors by USA Today . . . He turned down Colorado State, Iowa State and Iowa, among others.

Tenopir's comments: "He put on good size — he's up to 300 — and he's a fairly smooth football player. He still has a few ropes to learn, but he's a pretty moxy kid. He's going to be a good player."



CENTERS

Jon Rutherford
6-3, 300, Sr.
Midwest City, Okla.

Rutherford was the first Husker off the bench for the offensive line in 2000 . . . Perhaps the most versatile lineman in school history, he backed up Raiola at center and played both guard and tackle positions . . . He tore his left anterior cruciate ligament Nov. 4 against Kansas and underwent surgery the following week . . . He missed all of spring drills but is expected to return in time for the start of preseason camp in August . . . He finished sixth on the team in pancakes last season with 30.

Tenopir's comments: "He's a guy who could probably step in anywhere (along the line). He's willing to go where we put him. We'll probably start him out at center and guard in the fall. With him plugged in there, we'll have a little competition to see who's the best."



John Garrison
6-4, 285, Jr.
Blue Springs, Mo.

Garrison appeared in all 11 regular-season games last year and finished with four pancakes . . . He joined Taylor Gehman and Fonoti as true freshmen who played in 1999 . . . Began his freshman year at rush end but impressed coaches with deep-snapping ability and was moved permanently . . . Garrison served as the No. 1 deep-snapper in each of his first two seasons at NU . . . In 1999 he became just the fourth Husker true freshman to earn playing time on the offensive line.

Tenopir's comments: "He played very well at times in the spring. He needs to put a little meat on during the summer, and he'll be working hard at that. He's a very aggressive and tough kid."



Matt Shook
6-2, 300, Jr.
Medina, Ohio

Shook appeared in five games last season and recorded four pancakes . . . He shared time with Garrison as Dominic Raiola's backup . . . In 1999 Shook suffered a torn right ACL during preseason camp and missed the entire season . . . He redshirted in 1998 . . . A three-year starter at Medina High School, Shook earned first-team all-state honors as an offensive guard . . . He was named to the Big 33 team that matches Ohio prep stars against Pennsylvanians.

Tenopir's comments: "He's not quite as mobile as Garrison, but he does have strength — he's a little stronger than John. He had a decent spring, too. They're both kids you can win with."



RIGHT GUARDS

Wes Cody
6-2, 295, Jr.
Fremont, Neb.

Cody appeared in eight regular-season games last season and recorded seven pancakes, including three apiece against Baylor and Kansas . . . He quietly moved up the depth chart during the spring . . . He appeared in only one game as a redshirt freshman after sitting out as a redshirt in 1998 . . . Cody helped lead Fremont Bergan High School to the playoffs each of his four years and earned first-team all-state honors as a senior.

Tenopir's comments: "He had an excellent spring — he got better each week and played well in the Spring Game. He's a strong guy who certainly is competitive enough to get the job done."



Jon Dawson
6-2, 295, So.
Cheyenne, Wyo.

Dawson's stock was on the rise when he tore a ligament in his knee two weeks into spring drills . . . Honored as Nebraska's "Lifter of the Year," Dawson hopes to be ready in time for the start of preseason camp in August . . . He appeared in seven games last season and recorded 12 pancakes, including six in Nebraska's 56-3 romp over Texas Tech . . . Playing at Cheyenne Central High School, he was named Wyoming lineman of the year on offense and defense in 1998 . . . He's NU's first scholarship player from Wyoming since Cheyenne native Troy Dumas in 1991.

Tenopir's comments: "We'll wait to see how he comes off his knee injury. I'm not one to put a timeline on his recovery, but we hope to get him back in September sometime. He was competing for a starting spot. It was a setback for him."



Junior Tagoa'i
6-2, 290, So.
Hauula, Hawaii

Tagoa'i made a successful switch from nose tackle to guard during spring ball . . . He appeared in five games last season and made three stops, including a sack . . . He redshirted in 1999 . . . Playing nose tackle at powerhouse St. Louis School, Tagoa'i earned all-state honors in 1998 from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin for Coach Cal Lee . . . Recorded 39 tackles, including nine for losses, during his senior season.

Tenopir's comments: "For being at (offensive guard) for only a short time, he played very well. He's a strong, competitive guy. He just needs to learn the business better. But he has the right tools to get the job done."



RIGHT TACKLES

Dan Waldrop
6-5, 330, So.
Compton, Calif.

With sophomore Chris Loos recovering from knee surgery, Waldrop operated with the first-string offense for most of the spring . . . Last season he appeared in six games and recorded seven pancakes, including five against Texas Tech . . . He's among Nebraska's biggest players but is gentle in nature . . . He earned honorable-mention Best in the West accolades from the Long Beach Press-Telegram after helping Banning High to a 10-4 record in 1998 . . . Born in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

Tenopir's comments: "He had a very good spring. He became more intense as a football player — he got after people better. That sometimes happens when guys start thinking they might be playing more."



Chris Loos
6-3, 310, So.
Lincoln, Neb.

Loos missed spring drills after tearing his left anterior, posterior and medial collateral ligaments during Alamo Bowl preparations in December . . . He saw action in all 11 regular-season games last season, primarily as the right guard on the PAT and field-goal units . . . But he also saw time as a backup tackle . . . He moved up to No. 2 at left tackle when Rutherford went down with his injury . . . Loos finished last season with 15 pancakes.

Tenopir's comments: "Chris was a very aggressive player last year — he was our third guy going into the bowl game before he was injured. He came on well at the end of last year and proved he could get the job done."



LEFT CORNERBACKS

Keyuo Craver
5-10, 190, Sr.
Harleton, Texas

Craver missed the last five practices of the spring with a high ankle sprain, but he's expected to be 100 percent by the start of preseason camp in August . . . A seasoned veteran, Craver has started every game at left corner the last two seasons . . . He should contend for All-American honors this season . . . He ranks second at Nebraska in career pass breakups with 28 — 22 behind school-record holder Ralph Brown.

Defensive coordinator Craig Bohl's comment: "We need to have big things from Keyuo. He has a lot of ability and a lot of experience. So what that has to translate into is a very consistent big-time player. It can't be a guy who makes three big plays and doesn't come up with a fourth. He needs to be a dominant player on the corner."



Pat Ricketts
5-11, 180, So.
Omaha, Neb.

Ricketts, a walk-on, missed much of spring practice with a hamstring injury . . . He appeared in 10 games last season and made 18 tackles while also breaking up a pass . . . Arguably the surprise of Nebraska's 1999 recruiting class after turning down scholarship offers from New Mexico State and Army . . . He was named to the Lincoln Journal Star Super-State squad after his senior season at Millard North.

Bohl's comments: "He came on and played nickel back for us this spring and we really feel good about Pat. He'll line up at cornerback, but we'll put him as our starting nickel back."



Lornell McPherson
5-9, 175, Fr.
Omaha, Neb.

McPherson played both running back and defensive back at Omaha Central High School, earning all-state honors from the Lincoln Journal Star (defensive back) and Omaha World-Herald (running back) after his senior season . . . He's a member of the state's all-time fastest 400-meter relay team . . . He has great cover speed (4.57-second 40-yard dash) and an impressive vertical jump (39 inches) . . . He turned down Michigan, Iowa and Kansas State, among others.

Bohl's comments: "He made some really good plays in the spring. He's a physical guy, and we really feel he has a bright future with us."



RIGHT CORNERBACKS

DeJuan Groce
5-10, 190, Jr.
Garfield Heights, Ohio

Groce sat out all of spring practice after undergoing offseason shoulder surgery . . . Last season he alternated with Erwin Swiney on the right side . . . He broke the school's single-season pass-breakups record with 17 . . . He also played left corner in the nickel package when Craver moved into the nickel slot . . . Groce started three games last season, including the last two . . . He finished the season with 26 tackles.

Bohl's comments: "DeJuan really finished off last season well. It hurts that he missed spring ball, but it'd be different if he hadn't played all last year. It hurts, but I don't think it's insurmountable."



Erwin Swiney
6-0, 185, Sr.
Lincoln, Neb.

He'll see ample time in the cornerback rotation with Craver and Groce . . . He has made a team-best 33 career starts, including 10 games as a freshman . . . He has 27 career breakups to rank third all-time at Nebraska . . . He played in all 11 games last season and started the first 10 opposite Craver . . . Swiney finished 2000 with 19 tackles, including 14 unassisted stops.

Bohl's comments: "Erwin played well and competed well this spring. Erwin's played a lot of football for us. He's made a lot of good plays. I thought he was more physical this spring than what he has been. He tackled better."



Jeff Hemje
6-0, 180, Sr.
Grand Island, Neb.

Hemje came to Nebraska on an academic scholarship, then decided to try out for football . . . He caught the coaches' attention with his speed . . . He set a team position record with a 3.86-clocking in the pro-agility run . . . He appeared in six games last season and made two tackles and broke up a pass . . . In 1999, Hemje played in eight games and had eight tackles . . . He earned honorable-mention all-state honors as a cornerback and I-back for Grand Island High School.

Bohl's comments: "He's really been a diligent player. He's a great team player, and he has a great understanding of the defense."



FREE SAFETIES

Dion Booker
6-1, 205, Sr.
Oceanside, Calif.

He capped a strong spring with four tackles in the Red-White Game . . . He played in every game last season and started seven of the first eight before giving way to senior Troy Watchorn . . . He finished with 34 tackles, including 18 solo stops . . . He collected a season-high six tackles and a career-best four solo stops against Iowa . . . He finished the 1999 season with 28 stops.

Bohl's comments: "He's bouncing back and forth between rover and free safety. He adds a great deal of experience. He really played very well in the Alamo Bowl. The closer we move him up to the line of scrimmage, the better playmaker he is."



Willie Amos
6-0, 185, So.
Sweetwater, Texas

Amos played in 11 games last season as a true freshman, finishing with nine tackles and three pass breakups . . . He's one of the team's best all-around athletes . . . He ran the 40-yard dash in 4.3 seconds in high school . . . He rushed for 3,824 yards and 37 touchdowns during his prep career . . . He is a member of a national and world champion jump-rope team, competing in the double-dutch event.

Bohl's comments: "He played well in the Spring Game. He has loads of physical talent, great speed and he has a willing heart. He's learning, and that sometimes holds his athleticism back a little bit. He's still making some mistakes due to inexperience, but, boy, you can see him doing some things that are really special. He's got big-time ability."



Jerrell Pippens
6-2, 190, So.
Philadelphia

Pippens is a walk-on from the Husker track team . . . He capped a breakthrough spring season with six tackles in the Red-White Game . . . He appeared in four games last season but is expected to see much more action this season . . . He ran the first leg for the 4x400 relay team that placed fifth in the 2000 Big 12 indoor meet.

Bohl's comments: "He played exceptionally well in the Spring Game. Pip showed up. We're pleased with his progress."



ROVERS

Lannie Hopkins
6-2, 205, Fr.
Rowlett, Texas

Hopkins moved from weakside linebacker to rover this spring and made an immediate impact . . . He'll go into preseason camp as the front-runner to start at the position . . . He made five tackles in the Red-White Game . . . He redshirted in 2000 . . . As a senior at Rowlett High School, Hopkins made 152 tackles, including 85 solo stops . . . He blocked an astounding 22 kicks during his prep career.

Bohl's comments: "He has a lot of ability. He's working on his coverage skills, but he really shows up in scrimmages. He's one of our fastest players on defense, and he's physical. He has good instincts. He lacks experience, but he has a willing attitude."



Aaron Terpening
5-11, 200, Jr.
Salem, Ore.

A walk-on, Terpening enjoyed a solid sophomore season . . . He backed up senior rovers Joe Walker and Clint Finley and also played on the punt return team as a corner blocker and on the kickoff coverage team . . . He finished the season with six tackles . . . Against Kansas State, he blocked Travis Brown's first punt, and Craver recovered the pigskin in the end zone.

Bohl's comments: "He's a steady-eddy guy. He's physical. But he gets limited when he's out on an island."



STRONGSIDE LINEBACKERS

Scott Shanle
6-2, 235, Jr.
St. Edward, Neb.

A former walk-on, Shanle won the starting job at the end of spring practice in 2000 . . . Last season he finished fifth on the team with 55 tackles, including 30 solo stops . . . He started all but two games last season, against Texas Tech and Oklahoma, when the Huskers used extra defensive backs . . . He had a career-high 11 tackles against Kansas State.

Bohl's comments: "I thought he had an excellent spring — he played as well as he's ever played. He made a lot of tackles. He's experienced no . . . I'm really excited about Scott this season."



Ira Cooper
6-2, 220, Fr.
Omaha, Neb.

Cooper made a big move up the depth chart with an impressive spring . . . He sat out last season as a redshirt but impressed coaches with his work on the scout team . . . He was a four-year starter for Coach Larry Morrissey at Omaha Westside High . . . He recorded 58 tackles as a prep senior despite a slew of injuries . . . He was named PrepStar All-American.

Bohl's comments: "He showed some playmaking ability this spring. He has to gain some experience, but I think he'll develop into a good backup there."



WEAKSIDE LINEBACKERS

Mark Vedral
6-1, 210, Sr.
Gregory, S.D.

Vedral capped a strong spring with five tackles, including a sack, in the Red-White Game . . . With senior Randy Stella's status in doubt entering August, Vedral becomes the clear-cut starter here . . . Although Vedral did not play in the first two games last season, he finished with 23 tackles, the most of any non-starter . . . He made a career-high six tackles against Missouri.

Bohl's comments: "He had a good spring. He actually broke his thumb but continued to play. We don't have a lot of backups at this spot."



MIDDLE LINEBACKERS

Jamie Burrow
6-1, 245, Sr.
Ames, Iowa

Burrow, Carlos Polk's backup the past two seasons, injured his hamstring during the first major scrimmage of the spring and sat out the final couple weeks of practice . . . Burrow finished last season with 14 tackles, one sack, four quarterback hurries and a 28-yard fumble return for a touchdown against Missouri . . . He also had 14 tackles in 1999 . . . Jamie is the son of ex-NU standout Jimmy Burrow, now a graduate assistant for the Huskers.

Bohl's comments: "We feel Jamie has played a lot the last couple years at critical times in the game. We've been pleased with his performance. He certainly worked hard this winter. He's gained some solid weight and he's carrying it well. He's looked good."



Blanchard Johnson
5-11, 205, So.
Omaha, Neb.

An ankle injury sidelined him for the latter part of spring practice . . . He appeared in four games last season and made six tackles and blocked a field goal . . . Born and raised in Omaha, he attended St. Albert High School in nearby Council Bluffs, Iowa . . . At St. Albert, he played both middle linebacker and running back, earning all-state honors on both sides of the ball . . . He rushed for 1,928 yards and 35 TDs as a senior.

Bohl's comments: "He added some depth last year, and I think that's kind of where he's at right now."



T.J. Hollowell
6-0, 220, So.
Copperas Cove, Texas

Hollowell last season played behind Shanle at strongside linebacker, but he began spring practice at weakside linebacker . . . He switched to middle linebacker for the last week of spring practice because Burrow and Tony Tata were sidelined by injuries . . . Whether Hollowell stays in the middle might depend on how quickly Tata heals from his knee injury and how fast highly regarded recruit Barrett Ruud picks things up in August.

Bohl's comments: "I think T.J.'s going to be a solid player for us this season. Whether he plays WILL or MIKE, I don't know. He's strong and very instinctive, and he'll do anything for the team."



LEFT RUSH ENDS

Chris Kelsay
6-5, 270, Jr.
Auburn, Neb.

Nebraska coaches want Kelsay to become a dominant player in the mold of great Husker rush ends of the past . . . In 2000 he played in all 11 games and started the last seven . . . Kelsay finished ninth on the team in tackles with 29, including nine solos . . . He had a career-high five stops in the regular-season finale against Colorado.

Bohl's comments: "He's certainly becoming more dominant and aggressive. We're expecting him to have an excellent year. He's an experienced player. He has a great attitude, and I know he's expecting to step up to the plate this year."



Tony Tata
6-1, 245, Jr.
Honolulu, Hawaii

Tata suffered a ligament tear in his left knee in the second major scrimmage of the spring and his status for the start of the season is uncertain . . . He appeared in nine games last season and made four tackles . . . As a senior at St. Louis High in Honolulu, he was named the state's player of the year by USA Today.

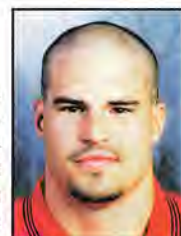
Bohl's comments: "The day he got hurt, he had his best scrimmage he's had since he's been here. His injury really hurt, because we were thin at that spot anyhow, and that really put a kink in it. I think he'll be back in the middle of August. Then there's several weeks a guy has to go through to get to where he can play."



Justin Smith
6-4, 260, Jr.
Sherman, Texas

Smith capped a solid spring season with two sacks in the Red-White Scrimmage . . . He also had a pair of sacks in a March 24 scrimmage . . . He played in 11 games last season and recorded 14 tackles, including two for losses . . . He appears to be recovered from shoulder surgery performed right after the 1999 season.

Bohl's comments: "Justin played solidly this spring. He was not able to go through spring ball last year, so this spring really helped him. We feel he made some real progress."



J.P. Wichmann
6-4, 230, Sr.
Shawnee, Kan.

Wichmann appeared in 11 games last season and made nine stops, including two sacks and a quarterback-hurry . . . He played in six games in 1999, making four tackles . . . He saw action in three games during the 1998 season . . . He was a teammate of Husker receiver Ben Cornelsen at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School.

Bohl's comments: "He has a lot of enthusiasm, and he's a good pass-rusher."



NOSE TACKLES

Jason Lohr
6-2, 275, Sr.
Tulsa, Okla.

Lohr practiced only once during the spring because of a combination of personal reasons and a back injury . . . His back injury required surgery in late April, but Solich said Lohr should be ready for the start of preseason camp in August . . . Lohr started every game last season and ranked sixth on the squad with 46 tackles.

Bohl's comments: "We didn't get much out of Jason during the spring, but that gave us an opportunity to work with some other players. When Jason's healthy, he's probably the strongest among our linemen."



RIGHT RUSH ENDS

Demoine Adams
6-2, 235, Jr.
Pine Bluff, Ark.

Adams enjoyed an excellent spring . . . He recorded two sacks in a March 31 scrimmage . . . In 2000 he played in every game and started the first four, finishing with 12 tackles and five quarterback hurries . . . In 1999 he played in mostly pass-rush situations and made five stops . . . He played tight end, linebacker and defensive end in high school.

Bohl's comments: "Demoine shows up a lot. He runs really well, and I thought he had a great spring."



Jon Clanton
6-2, 280, Jr.
Glendale, Ariz.

Coaches moved Clanton to rush end for a period during the spring before deciding he fit best at nose tackle . . . Clanton capped the spring with a sack in the Red-White Game . . . He continues to dazzle in physical testing, establishing himself as one of the quickest defensive tackles in school history . . . He played in 10 games last season and made five tackles.

Bohl's comments: "We really feel good about Jon Clanton. He has excellent speed, and he's a good pass rusher."



Trevor Johnson
6-4, 250, So.
Lincoln, Neb.

Johnson made a smooth transition from tight end to rush end this spring . . . He recorded four stops in the Red-White Spring Game, including two sacks . . . Last season he played impressively at tight end, but with three talented veterans at tight end, Husker coaches looked for a way to get Johnson on the field . . . He was a force on both sides of the ball in high school.

Bohl's comments: "We've really been pleased with Trevor Johnson. I think he's becoming more comfortable. And the more repetition he gets, the better he'll be."



Manaia Brown
6-4, 300, Fr.
Salt Lake City, Utah

After sitting out last season because he was academically ineligible, Brown made a major impression during spring practice . . . He began the spring at rush end, but he found his niche when he moved inside two weeks into drills . . . He capped the spring with a seven-tackle performance in the Red-White Game, an effort that included three sacks.

Bohl's comments: "We were really pleased with Manaia this spring. He still has to lose some weight and get in playing shape. But he's a strong guy who does have ability. I see him being in the rotation this season."



Benard Thomas
6-4, 250, So.
East Palo Alto, Calif.

Thomas put on a show in the Red-White Spring Game, finishing with four sacks for 25 yards in losses . . . But for the most part, he said, he played poorly during the spring . . . He played in six games as a true freshman after coaches decided to pull him out of a redshirt season for game three against Iowa . . . He finished the year with only two tackles.

Bohl's comments: "He can do some things the other guys can't do. We feel like he's an excellent pass-rusher, but he's got to work on his run fundamentals. He did make some good plays in the Red-White Spring Game. He's a perfectionist."



Ryon Bingham
6-3, 275, So.
Sandy, Utah

Bingham practiced during the spring, but he couldn't go full bore because he's still bothered by a broken right foot that sidelined him all of last season . . . By proceeding with caution in the spring, Bingham hoped to be ready for the start of preseason camp in August . . . Trouble is, he hasn't played in a game since the 1998 season at Alta High School, where he was a two-time state champion heavyweight wrestler.

Defensive line coach Jeff Jamrog's comments: "He's getting better, but he needs a lot of repetitions. Unfortunately he hasn't gotten a lot of reps with live bullets flying in scrimmage situations. He's still, in my mind, an unknown entity. He knows that, too."



DEFENSIVE TACKLES

Jeremy Slechta
6-6, 285, Sr.
LaVista, Neb.



Slechta endured a rough offseason . . . In January, he smashed his hand in a non-football accident and had to have a pin inserted, then in February he underwent arthroscopic knee surgery . . . He made four tackles in the Red-White Spring Game . . . Last season he backed up starter Loran Kaiser and started four games when Kaiser was injured . . . Slechta finished the 2000 season with 25 tackles, including 13 in his four starts.

Bohl's comments: "He went through spring ball without being nearly as strong as he normally is. But because of his nature and his experience, he scrapped around and made a lot of plays. Now he's going to have to have a great summer in the weight room."

Casey Nelson
6-2, 285, Sr.
Newman Grove, Neb.



Nelson last season played in 10 games and made five tackles and recorded three quarterback-hurries . . . He broke his right wrist against Notre Dame last season but kept playing and immediately returned to practice the next week . . . He weighed 215 pounds when he arrived on campus in August 1997 with hopes of becoming a college linebacker.

Bohl's comments: "Casey's turned out to be solid in maintaining the line of scrimmage and making plays. He's not a great pass-rusher right now, but he's a strong guy in the middle and can certainly add depth."

Patrick Kabongo
6-6, 290, So.
Montreal, Quebec



Kabongo impressed coaches during the spring with his new-found quickness, the result of dropping about 40 pounds . . . He was the defensive star of the Red-White Spring Game, recording 12 tackles, including a sack . . . Last season Kabongo appeared in seven games and made four stops.

Bohl's comments: "He's the guy who made the most progress this spring. We evaluated the Spring Game, and he's a drastically different player than what he was last spring. He really worked on his speed and quickness. He's worked himself into a solid player. He's going to play some, and it's great to see because he's a neat kid."

PUNTER

Kyle Larson
6-0, 205, So.
Funk, Neb.



Larson, as expected, takes over as starter for record-setting punter Dan Hadenfeldt . . . Larson averaged an eye-opening 56.1 yards on six punts in two scrimmages during the spring . . . Larson won state Punt, Pass and Kick competitions in junior high and went on to average a state-leading 46.5 yards per punt as a senior at Kearney High School (Kearney is just north of Funk).

Kicker coach Dan Young's comment: "He's maintained the kind of distance you want, and his hang time has improved. He has a habit of taking a little extra step with his left foot. We're trying to break him of that."

PLACE-KICKERS

Josh Brown
6-2, 190, Jr.
Foyil, Okla.



Although he spent considerable time playing receiver this spring, Brown managed a slight edge over Sandro DeAngelis as the No. 1 kicker . . . Brown last season was perfect on 60 PATs, extending his career streak to 108, including 95 straight in the regular season . . . He last missed a PAT against Southern Mississippi in Game 3 of the 1999 season . . . He struggled some last season, making just 5 of 10 field-goal attempts . . . He gained significant redemption by making a 29-yard, game-winning field goal against Colorado last season.

Young's comments: "Josh probably charted a hair better than Sandro this spring. At this point, he has a little stronger leg."

Sandro DeAngelis
5-8, 195, Fr.
Niagara Falls, Ontario



DeAngelis shined in the Red-White Spring Game, booting field goals of 37, 48 and 37 yards . . . He also reached the end zone with three of his five kickoffs . . . He could press Brown for the starter's job in preseason camp . . . He was an honorable-mention high school All-American by USA Today . . . DeAngelis was ranked as the No. 1 recruit in Canada by Bill Passel's Canadian Recruiters and was chosen as the No. 2 kicker in the eastern part of the United States by PrepStar.

Young's comments: "Josh and Sandro are both good kickers, and we'll just have to keep working on it to see how it all goes. I know they'll both be working hard all summer. I think by next fall, they'll be close to each other."

2001 PLAYER CAPSULES

Roster of Returning Players

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown (school)
98	**Adams, Demoine	RRE	6-2	235	Jr.	Pine Bluff, Ark.
40	Albertson, Matt	IB	5-10	210	Jr.	North Platte, Neb.
27	*Amos, Willie	FS	6-0	185	So.	Sweetwater, Texas
70	Andersen, Jake	OG	6-1	290	RFr.	Littleton, Colo. (J.K. Mullen)
61	Bingham, Ryon	NT	6-3	275	So.	Sandy, Utah (Alta)
29	Boettner, Mic	ROV	6-0	205	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
14	***Booker, Dion	FS	6-1	205	Sr.	Oceanside, Calif. (EICamino)
84	**Bowling, Jon	TE	6-3	245	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
26	**Brown, Josh	PK	6-2	190	Jr.	Foyil, Okla.
96	Brown, Manaia	NT	6-4	300	Fr.	Salt Lake City, Utah
39	Buller, Chad	WLB	5-11	210	So.	Henderson, Neb. (Heartland)
43	Burrow, Dan	FS	5-10	175	RFr.	Ames, Iowa
48	***Burrow, Jamie	MLB	6-1	245	Sr.	Ames, Iowa
18	Butler, Cody	PK/P	6-0	180	RFr.	Hastings, Neb. (St. Cecilia)
4	*Butler, Terrell	ROV	5-9	190	So.	Austell, Ga. (Pebblebrook)
11	**Chrisman, Joe	QB	5-11	190	Jr.	Longmont, Colo.
55	**Clanton, Jon	NT	6-2	280	Jr.	Glendale, Ariz. (Centennial)
59	*Cody, Wes	OG	6-2	295	Jr.	Fremont, Neb. (Bergan)
1	*Collins, Thunder	IB	6-2	190	Jr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (East Los Angeles/Manual Arts HS)
32	Cook, Kelly	SE	6-1	185	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Burke)
27	Cooper, Ira	SLB	6-2	220	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)
81	*Cornelsen, Ben	WB	5-10	190	Jr.	Shawnee, Kan. (Northwest)
3	***Craver, Keyuo	LCB	5-11	190	Sr.	Harleton, Texas
7	***Crouch, Eric	QB	6-1	200	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
59	Crumpton, Patrick	LB	5-10	215	RFr.	Mavisdale, Va. (Grundy)
82	Dabbert, Will	TE	6-4	245	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (East)
4	*Davies, Judd	FB	6-0	240	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
27	Davis, Josh	ROV	5-11	195	So.	Loveland, Colo.
50	*Dawson, Jon	OG	6-2	295	So.	Cheyenne, Wyo. (Central)
22	DeAngelis, Sandro	PK	5-8	195	RFr.	Niagara Falls, Ont., Canada (St. Joseph's Collegiate, N.Y.)
32	Demerath, Tim	ROV	6-1	205	Jr.	Plainview, Neb.
2	Demps, Mike	WB	5-10	210	Jr.	Fort Worth, Texas (Dunbar)
30	**Diedrick, Dahrran	IB	6-0	225	Jr.	Scarborough, Ont., Canada (Cedarbrae Collegiate Inst.)
29	Dunn, Andrew	WB	6-0	220	RFr.	Glenwood, Iowa
78	Erickson, Mike	OG	6-4	300	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Papio-LaVista)
88	Estudillo, Chris	RE	6-4	225	So.	Ord, Neb.
64	Flaum, M.J.	OT	6-4	310	RFr.	Westminster, Colo. (Nrthglnn)
77	**Fonoti, Toniui	OG	6-4	340	Jr.	Hauula, Hawaii (Kahuku)
51	Fries, Gabe	SLB	6-2	230	Jr.	Benkelman, Neb. (Dundy Co.)
52	**Garrison, John	C	6-4	285	Jr.	Blue Springs, Mo.
8	***Gibson, John	WB	6-0	195	Sr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papio-LaVista)
54	Giebler, Dan	LB	6-1	225	RFr.	Fremont, Neb.
99	**Golliday, Aaron	TE	6-4	285	Jr.	York, Neb.
49	Gragert, Nick	FB	6-0	230	Sr.	Columbus, Neb.
72	Green, Tim	OT	6-4	325	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Westside)
6	*Grixy, DeAntae	IB	5-8	205	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Central)
5	**Groce, DeJuan	RCB	5-10	190	Jr.	Garfield Hgts, Ohio (St. Ed)
26	Guse, Kevin	LCB	5-11	175	So.	Longmont, Colo.
62	Gwennap, Andy	OG	6-2	290	Jr.	Smith Center, Kan.
89	**Hassebroek, Troy	WB	6-4	220	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Lincoln High)
18	**Hemje, Jeff	RCB	6-0	180	Sr.	Grand Island, Neb.
51	Hoke, Anthony	SLB	6-0	200	So.	Lyndon, Kan.
40	*Hollowell, T.J.	MLB	6-0	220	RFr.	Copperas Cove, Texas
40	Hopkins, Lannie	ROV	6-2	205	RFr.	Rowlett, Texas (Rowlett)
38	Huston, Kellen	CB	5-11	185	RFr.	Ankeny, Iowa
24	Ickes, Matt	RCB	5-10	200	Sr.	Page, Neb. (Orchard)
36	Jackson, Joel	CB	5-10	180	RFr.	Papillion, Neb. (Papio-LaVista)
34	Jisa, Jason	SE	6-4	210	RFr.	Seward, Neb.
23	*Johnson, Blanchard	WLB	5-11	205	So.	Omaha, Neb. (C.B. St. Albert)
88	*Johnson, Trevor	RRE	6-4	250	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
94	*Kabongo, Patrick	DT	6-6	290	So.	Montreal, Que. (Vanier Prep)
37	*Kastl, Paul	FB	5-10	230	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Pius X)
42	Keiser, Dusty	TE	6-3	240	RFr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Catholic)
57	**Kelsay, Chris	LRE	6-5	270	Jr.	Auburn, Neb.
19	Klebe, John	SE	6-0	200	Jr.	Lincoln, Neb. (East)
73	*Koethe, Scott	OT	6-5	310	Jr.	Central City, Neb.
75	***Kollmorgen, Kyle	OT	6-5	310	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
74	Kolowski, David	C	6-5	300	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard West)
67	*Kolterman, Nate	OT	6-3	330	Jr.	Seward, Neb.
39	Kriewald, Steve	FB	5-10	255	RFr.	Scotia, Neb. (N. Loup-Scotia)
19	Larson, Kyle	P	6-0	205	So.	Funk, Neb. (Kearney)
28	Liley, Tim	SE	5-11	195	So.	Lakewood, Colo. (Mullen)
63	Limbaugh, Jack	OG	6-4	280	So.	Algona, Iowa
14	Lindstrom, Brett	QB	6-0	185	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard West)
70	***Lohr, Jason	NT	6-2	275	Sr.	Tulsa, Okla. (Jenks)
5	Long, DeWayne	WB	6-0	210	RFr.	W.Des Moines, Iowa (Dowling)
44	Long, Jason	MLB	6-1	210	RFr.	Nebraska City, Neb.
76	*Loos, Chris	OT	6-3	310	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
10	*Lord, Jammal	QB	6-2	215	So.	Bayonne, N.J.
54	Makris, Mike	MLB	5-11	240	So.	Rhineland, Wis.
79	Manning, Stephen	DT	6-1	255	So.	Knoxville, Tenn. (Bearden)
63	Manstedt, Mitch	DT	6-3	275	RFr.	Clarks, Neb.
76	McBride, Jeff	RE	6-4	220	RFr.	Brule, Neb. (South Platte)
33	McGowan, Luke	WB	5-10	165	So.	Schuyler, Neb.
6	McPherson, Lornell	LCB	5-9	175	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Central)
16	Mikluscak, Ryan	SE	6-0	190	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Bellevue West)
21	*Miller, Robin	IB	5-11	225	So.	Kent, Wash. (Kent-Meridian)
58	Miller, Tim	WLB	6-1	210	So.	Elmwood, Neb. (Elm.-Murdock)
21	Neal, Don	RCB	5-6	155	So.	Henrietta, N.Y. (Rush-Henr.)
61	Nelson, Brian	OG	6-3	305	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard West)
85	**Nelson, Casey	DT	6-2	285	Sr.	Newman Grove, Neb.
24	O'Holleran, Jack	WB	5-10	205	RFr.	North Platte, Neb.
23	Ommert, Ryan	SE	5-10	190	So.	Cambridge, Neb.
25	Otto, Jamie	CB	5-11	180	RFr.	Norfolk, Neb. (Catholic)
78	Peetz, Phil	TE	6-2	245	Sr.	Elkhorn, Neb.
44	*Penny, Jon	WLB	6-1	220	Sr.	Lawrence, Kan.
31	*Pippens, Jerrell	FS	6-2	190	So.	Philadelphia, Pa. (W. Catholic)
83	Plooster, Matt	WB	5-10	195	So.	Malcolm, Neb. (Mt. Michael)
69	Povendo, Nick	OT	6-3	300	RFr.	Keller, Texas
35	Reed, Adam	FB	5-11	210	RFr.	Scottsbluff, Neb.
47	Reese, Tim	IB	5-11	230	So.	Seattle, Wash. (O'Dea)
47	Richenberger, Jason	WLB	6-1	220	RFr.	Liberty, Mo.
28	*Ricketts, Pat	LCB	5-11	180	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North)
86	Ringenberg, Kyle	TE	6-5	245	So.	Elkhorn, Neb.
66	***Rutherford, Jon	C	6-3	300	Sr.	Midwest City, Okla.
50	Safraneck, Steve	MLB	6-1	230	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Gross)
11	Scholting, Carl	FS	6-0	210	Sr.	Springfield, Neb. (Spr.-Platte.)
85	Septak, Chris	TE	6-4	230	RFr.	Omaha, Neb. (Millard West)
80	Shada, Alex	TE	6-2	235	RFr.	Wahoo, Neb.
43	**Shanle, Scott	SLB	6-2	235	Jr.	St. Edward, Neb.
53	*Shook, Matt	C	6-2	300	Jr.	Medina, Ohio
13	Siefken, Scott	QB	5-11	195	RFr.	Boerne, Texas
56	**Slecht, Jeremy	DT	6-6	285	Sr.	LaVista, Neb. (Papio-LaVista)
45	Smith, Jemond	WLB	6-0	220	Jr.	Kenner, La. (Bonnabel)
92	**Smith, Justin	LRE	6-4	260	So.	Sherman, Texas
34	**Stella, Randy-x	WLB	6-0	210	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Benson)
16	**Swiney, Erwin	RCB	6-0	185	Sr.	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
96	*Tagoal, Junior	OG	6-2	290	So.	Hauula, Hawaii (St. Louis)
90	*Tata, Tony	MLB	6-1	245	Jr.	Honolulu, Hawaii (St. Louis)
2	**Terpening, Aaron	ROV	5-11	200	Jr.	Salem, Ore. (North)
52	*Thomas, Benard	RRE	6-4	250	So.	E. Palo Alto, Calif. (St. Francis)
9	*Thomas, Wilson	SE	6-5	205	Jr.	Omaha, Neb. (North)
31	Thorne, Fred	WB	5-10	185	So.	Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast)
77	Toline, Tyler	RE	6-2	220	RFr.	Wahoo, Neb.
48	Tomasevicz, Curt	FB	6-0	220	RFr.	Shelby, Neb.
9	***Vedral, Mark	WLB	6-1	210	Sr.	Gregory, S.D.
57	Volk, Cody	OT	6-6	305	So.	Norfolk, Neb. (Battle Creek)
58	***Volk, Dave	OT	6-5	300	Sr.	Battle Creek, Neb.
68	*Waldrop, Dan	OT	6-5	330	So.	Wilmington, Calif. (Banning)
41	Walker, Tommicus	CB	5-11	180	So.	Grand Prairie, Texas (TCU/Sam Houston)
7	Walker, Treoun	CB	5-8	175	So.	Grand Prairie, Texas (Highland CC/Sam Houston)
99	Warrior, Adrian	RRE	6-5	250	Jr.	Bloomfield, Neb. (Cushng, Okla.)
37	White, Jay	LCB	5-9	185	So.	Ashville, N.C. (A.C. Reynolds)
95	**Wichmann, J.P.	RE	6-4	230	Sr.	Shawnee, Kan. (Northwest)
91	Wigert, Kiffin	SE	5-9	150	RFr.	Cheyenne, Wyo. (Central)
25	Wingender, Andy	FB	5-10	240	So.	Omaha, Neb. (Mt. Michael)
87	***Wistrom, Tracey	TE	6-5	240	Sr.	Webb City, Mo.
20	***Woodward, Wes	ROV	5-8	185	Sr.	Omaha, Neb. (Creighton Prep)
5	Zajicek, Ben	SE	6-0	210	RFr.	Beatrice, Neb.

* — indicates letters earned

x — indefinitely suspended

RFr. — indicates freshmen who redshirted in 2000

Coming . . .

2001 Recruiting Class



Titus Adams



Cory Ross



Marques Simmons

Player, hometown (school)

Titus Adams, Omaha (Creighton Prep)
Philip Bland, Lafayette (Fairview), Colo.
Cliff Brye, Lincoln (Northeast)/Hutchinson (Kan.) CC
Daniel Bullocks, Chattanooga (Hixson), Tenn.
Josh Bullocks, Chattanooga (Hixson), Tenn.
Seppo Ewvaraye, Laurel (Laurel-Concord), Neb.
Antwon Guidry, Campbell (Leigh), Calif.
Jared Helming, Springfield (Kickapoo), Mo.
Richie Incognito, Glendale (Mount. Ridge), Ariz.
Randy Landingham, Sonora, Calif.
Danieal Manning, Corsicana, Texas
Mike McLaughlin, Omaha (Millard North)
Gary Pike, Pueblo (Centennial), Colo.
Cory Ross, Denver (Thomas Jefferson), Colo.
Barrett Ruud, Lincoln (Southeast)
Marques Simmons, Davenport (North), Iowa
Le Kevin Smith, Macon (Stratford Academy), Ga.
Mike Stuntz, Council Bluffs (St. Albert), Iowa

Ht.	Wt.	Pos.
6-4	285	DL
6-0	205	ROV
5-10	175	WR
6-2	200	FS
6-2	200	ROV
6-5	325	DL
6-1	185	CB
6-4	275	DL
6-4	310	OL
6-1	180	CB
6-0	195	CB
6-0	175	QB
6-4	280	OL
5-7	190	RB
6-2	220	LB
5-10	190	RB
6-3	295	DT
6-2	185	QB



Philip Bland



Barrett Ruud

True Freshmen Who Have Played The Last Four Seasons

1997

Correll Buckhalter, I-back
Matt Davison, split end
Bobby Newcombe, QB/wingback
Erwin Swiney, defensive back
Kyle Vanden Bosch, rush end
Joe Walker, defensive back

1998

Keyuo Craver, defensive back
Jason Lohr, defensive tackle

Jeremy Slechta, defensive tackle

1999

Toniu Fonoti, guard
John Garrison, center/deep snapper
*Taylor Gehman, defensive back

2000

Willie Amos, defensive back
Terrell Butler, defensive back
T.J. Hollowell, linebacker
Benard Thomas, rush end

*placed on medical scholarship, no longer on team



Le Kevin Smith

. . . and Going

Seven Huskers were selected in the April 21-22 NFL draft. Rush end Kyle Vanden Bosch was the first Husker chosen. He was the third pick of the second round by Arizona, the 34th pick overall. Center Dominic Raiola, who left Nebraska after his junior season, was also chosen in the second. He went to Detroit as the 19th pick of the round and the 50th pick overall. The seven Huskers drafted were the most of any Big 12 Conference school.

Huskers Selected in NFL Draft

Player	Pos.	Rd.	Team
Kyle Vanden Bosch	DE	2	Arizona Cardinals
Dominic Raiola	C	2	Detroit Lions
Carlos Polk	LB	4	San Diego Chargers
Correll Buckhalter	RB	4	Philadelphia Eagles
Russ Hochstein	G	5	Tampa Bay Bucs
Bobby Newcombe	WR	6	Arizona Cardinals
Dan Alexander	RB	6	Tennessee Titans

2001 Husker Seniors

Player	Pos.	Correll Buckhalter	IB
Dan Alexander	IB	Matt Davison	SE
Rod Baker	SLB	Clint Finley	ROV
Tom Beveridge	SE	Eric Fischer	FS

Matt Grummert	RRE
Seth Gutz	SE
Dan Hadenfeldt	P
Russ Hochstein	OG
Loran Kaiser	DT
Chace Long	K
Dwayne McClary	LCB
Jake McKee	TE
Willie Miller	FB
Brandon Mooberry	RRE
John Murphy	TE
Bobby Newcombe	WB
Carlos Polk	MLB
Chris Saalfeld	OG
Jason Schwab	OT
Kyle Vanden Bosch	RRE
Joe Walker	ROV
Brian Wanish	NT

Early Offer No Surprise

*LeFlore performance
at summer camp
impressive enough
to convince Husker
coaching staff*

By James Hale

Nebraska Commitments for 2002

Player, hometown (high school)
Mark LeFlore, Omaha (Central)

Ht. Wt. Pos.
6-0 184 WR

When the NCAA forced football teams to only carry 85 scholarship athletes and to only sign a maximum of 25 players per year, the schools themselves knew they had to change how they attack the recruiting game.

With so few scholarships to give and in some cases fewer than 20 to give per year, programs can't afford to make a mistake. If a team misses on a player or two today, they don't have the depth to make it up at all positions. Today, a mistake in recruiting on a player who totally washes out of a program could mean the difference in your team playing in a major or minor bowl.

Another amazing dynamic is that teams can't afford to wait to offer a scholarship if they are certain that athlete is the player they want. So, scouting reports are now developed on sophomores, camps are scrutinized more than ever, and coaches have to roll the dice and pull the trigger on athletes before they are comfortable.

If a team likes an athlete before his junior year and there is a consensus among the staff that the upside on that athlete projects out to a Division 1 player good enough for that program, nowadays a scholarship offer is tendered.

Last summer, the Cornhuskers offered quarterback Mike McLaughlin of Omaha (Millard North), Neb., just a few days after they closed on their 2000 recruiting class. McLaughlin had just finished his junior year, when he

accepted the Huskers' offer.

Right in the middle of the 2001 recruiting season, word got out that the Huskers had gone a step further in offering underclassman. The Huskers offered and received a commitment from sophomore wide receiver Mark LeFlore (6-foot and 184 pounds, with 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash) of Omaha Central High School, who had split time his sophomore year and finished the year with only 12 catches to his credit.

So, what was it about LeFlore that forced Nebraska's hand on a part-time receiver? It's Nebraska's unique way in recruiting in the first place — the Huskers' tried and true belief in their own evaluating ability and testing at their camps. If an athlete goes to the Nebraska camp and tests well, works hard and plays well, Nebraska is one program that is not afraid to offer a scholarship.

"I had mixed emotions about the early offer, but I wasn't shocked by it," said Omaha Central Coach Joe McMenamin. "I have worked the Nebraska camp for a number of years, and I know exactly how their coaches work and think.

"If they are impressed with an athlete at their camp, they will at least start following that athlete. If they already know his history and already have film on him, then there is a good chance they will offer him, if he fits their physical profile for the position the athlete plays."

McMenamin said he knew before LeFlore went to the camp that he was going to test well.

"He had just completed a great track season and was in tremendous shape," McMenamin said. "He is a great athlete, and I knew that his athletic ability fit the athletic test at Nebraska very well.

"I told his dad to look out, that he was going to have a great camp, and if I was guessing right, I thought Nebraska would offer him. After watching Mark at the camp, it didn't surprise me. He had one of the most

impressive individual camps ever seen at Nebraska, and they didn't hesitate to offer."

LeFlore was so outstanding that he became only the third athlete to score more than 2,000 points on the famed Nebraska agility test, following in the footsteps of Ahman Green and Wilson Thomas. That test changed the athletic fortunes for LeFlore.

"I knew that I was going to do well, but I didn't have any idea that I would score as well as I did," LeFlore said. "Before I went to that camp, I thought basketball was going to be my sport. However, I grew up a Nebraska football fan when my dad took me to all the games. My dad is Nebraska's biggest fan, so he was pretty excited when he heard that Nebraska has offered me a scholarship. When they did offer me, we both wondered 'why should we wait?'"

"I went to the camp just to have some fun, but when the opportunity to play football at Nebraska presented itself, I wasn't going to turn it down."

Last season, LeFlore began to show that Nebraska had made the right decision. Central switched to the one-back offensive set from their traditional I-formation to take better advantage of LeFlore's skill. He responded by catching 42 passes for 736 yards and 10 touchdowns.

LeFlore also showed that he can be an excellent cornerback. He had three interceptions and returned one for a touchdown.

"Mark reminds me of the great Lynn Swann who played wide receiver for USC and the Pittsburgh Steelers during the early and late 70s," McMenamin said. "Mark has the ability to go up for a ball, with his great vertical jump, just like Swann could. Mark had at least eight highlight type receptions this past year just because he could jump and catch the ball."

"Mark is fast, has good hands and is working to become a complete receiver. He is easy to coach, and he is starved for information. Mark is always wanting to learn, and he has some great athletic ability to apply everything he learns."

Most high school recruits don't

know where they are going to school until before their senior year of football is complete. Most wait until after their senior season before making a decision, so that the recruiting process doesn't effect their play. However, LeFlore had already committed before the start of his junior year, so that he could concentrate on his high school career, instead of recruiting.

"Committing to Nebraska so early did not affect my high school career at all," LeFlore said. "I don't think about it when I play. Sure, I realize that I already have a big decision behind me and that I am very fortunate to have that decision already made for me, but when I play with friends and teammates, going to Nebraska is the furthest thing from my mind."

"All I want to do this year is lead Central to a state championship, which is something we haven't done since 1984. My total concentration is on winning that state title, enjoying high school and having fun, which is exactly what I should be doing my senior year in high school."

While LeFlore has made his decision, Nebraska will continue to try to get other targets to join him in the 2002 recruiting class.

— The Huskers may be the early leader on a player many consider the top defensive tackle in the country.

Marco Martin (6-4, 305, 4.67) of Mesquite, Texas, is a man among boys in most high school games. A three-year starter, Martin made more than 100 tackles this past year. He can bench 365 pounds and squat 610 pounds, and he said he is looking to leave the state of Texas.

"I don't think I am going to stay in Texas after this year," Martin said. "I went to the Tennessee camp last summer and had a great time. I am also looking at Nebraska and Florida State, and I really like how Nebraska plays defense. I think Miami will be in the picture as well. I am going to consider Texas and Texas A&M, but I really don't think I want to stay in the state."

It's early in the recruiting season, but as the LeFlore case illustrates, it's never too early to land a prized recruit anymore. ■

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Championship Game Results

- 2000 — Oklahoma 27, Kansas St. 24
- 1999 — Nebraska 22, Texas 6
- 1998 — Texas A&M 36, Kansas St. 33
- 1997 — Nebraska 54, Texas A&M 15
- 1996 — Texas 37, Nebraska 27



Oklahoma Sports Information



Bob Stoops (right) and Oklahoma face a huge challenge as the defending Big 12 Conference and national champion. The Sooners return several key players, including linebacker Rocky Calmus (left), as they make a run for the Dec. 1, 2001, Big 12 title game at Texas Stadium (above).



December Destination

***Survivors of
2001
Big 12 wars
will meet in
Texas Stadium***

By Mike Babcock

Defending national champion Oklahoma took advantage of the underdog's role.

The Sooners, ranked 19th in the Associated Press 2000 pre-season poll, were underdogs against Kansas State. They were underdogs against Texas. They were underdogs against Nebraska. And they were underdogs in the Orange Bowl game; Florida State was a 10 1/2-point favorite.

"We've been underestimated the whole season," rover Roy Williams was quoted before Oklahoma's 13-2

victory in Miami. "We're used to it. We're not worried about it. It's motivation."

The Sooners, looking to win back-to-back national championships for a third time in school history, won't be able to use it as motivation on the heels of their 13-0 title run — at least not until they play archrival Texas on Oct. 6. The Longhorns, with 17 returning starters and apparently a clear-cut starting quarterback in Chris Simms, also are talking seriously of winning a national championship.

Nebraska is, too, though that's the case nearly every season.



Texas Sports Information



Two of the most talented teams in the Big 12 would appear to be Colorado, coached by Gary Barnett (left) and Texas, coached by Mack Brown (above). The Buffaloes are coming off a disappointing 3-8 season, while the Longhorns finished 9-3.

"I've said for two years that I wanted expectations to rise, that we should be expected to win and compete for championships. I welcome that, and certainly that's what we're going to push for every year."

— Oklahoma Coach Bob Stoops

Oklahoma must play at Lincoln in late October, and a lot can happen before then. But Coach Bob Stoops' third team might find itself an underdog against the Cornhuskers as well.

Whether favored or not, if Oklahoma hopes to repeat as national champion, it first must repeat as Big 12 champion, something that has yet to happen in the conference's brief existence. And to repeat as Big 12 champs, the Sooners first must get to the conference playoff at Irving, Texas, on Dec. 1.

That will be no small task given their schedule, which includes what figure to be the two best teams in the Big 12's north division. They open conference play against Kansas State on Sept. 29 and a month later play at Nebraska. Texas, on the other hand, doesn't play either during the regular season.

The Longhorns' toughest interdivisional opponent looks to be Colorado, in Austin.

Even so, the Texas-Oklahoma showdown will go a long way toward determining the south divi-

sion's representative in the Big 12 Championship Game at Texas Stadium. And the Nebraska-Kansas State game at Lincoln on Nov. 10 probably will determine the north's representative.

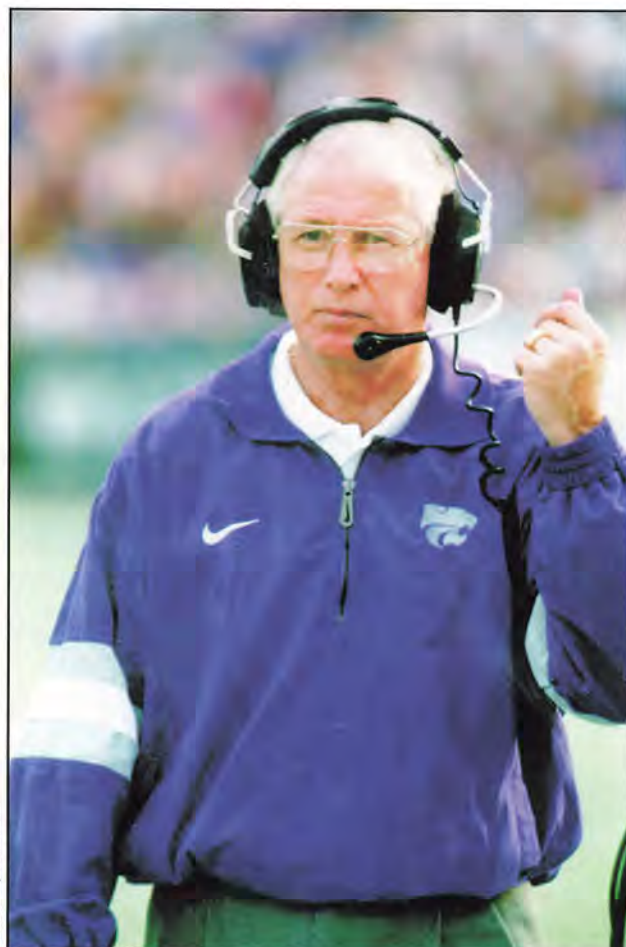
Colorado has the talent to reach the conference playoff for the first time. But the health of some key players, including talented tailback Marcus Houston, is a concern.

Plus, the Buffaloes must play at Kansas State as well as at Texas before finishing at home against Nebraska, which has won the last five games between the teams by a



Cyclones Illustrated

Dan McCarney and the Iowa State Cyclones must avoid a let-down after the second nine-victory season in school history.



Kansas State Sports Information

Bill Snyder's Kansas State Wildcats return just three starters from last year's highly ranked defense.

combined 15 points.

The Cornhuskers have what should be a healthy Eric Crouch at quarterback, a typically strong offensive line built around guard Tionu Fonoti and tackle Dave Volk and an improved defense, featuring cornerback Keyuo Craver, safety Dion Booker and tackle Jeremy Slechta. What they don't have is a lot of experience at some critical positions, including I-back and middle linebacker.

Kansas State, which had the nation's fourth-ranked defense last season, must rebuild it around just three returning starters: linebackers Ben Leber and Terry Pierce and safety Jon McGraw. Offensively, tailback Josh Scobey is back, as is wide receiver Aaron Lockett, who can break open games with his kick returns as well. But the Wildcats need to settle on a quarterback.

Colorado has a proven quarterback in sophomore Craig Ochs, solid running backs and receivers

surrounding him and a line that includes guard Andre Gurode and tackle Victor Rogers to protect him. The Buffaloes also have an improved defense, featuring linebacker Jashon Sykes and safety Michael Lewis. But they need to

avoid injuries, which have plagued them, and regain a winning mindset.

Oklahoma and Texas ranked in the top 10 nationally in both total offense and total defense last season; the only other team to do so was Florida State. And most of their players return.

Oklahoma will have a new quarterback, probably Nate Hybl, throwing to the same talented receivers. Antwone Savage, Curtis Fagan, Andre Woolfolk, Josh Norman and Damian Mackey are all back, as are tight end Trent Smith and F-Back Quentin Griffin. And the Sooners shouldn't have a big dropoff defensively, either, with the return of Williams and linebacker Rocky Calmus.

Texas again has two proven quarterbacks in Chris Simms and Major Applewhite. The difference is, Coach Mack Brown appears to have settled on Simms as his starter, a decision that should give the



Gary Pinkel



Les Miles

New Coaches

Missouri — Gary Pinkel (Toledo head coach)

Oklahoma State — Les Miles (Dallas Cowboys assistant)



Frank Solich (left) will attempt to get Nebraska back to the Big 12 title game for the fourth time, while former Husker assistant Kevin Steele (right) continues to rebuild at Baylor.

Longhorns some offensive stability. Simms will operate behind an offensive line anchored by tackle Mike Williams and throw to a group of receivers led by potential superstar Roy Williams. The defense is built around cornerback Quentin Jammer, linebacker D.D. Lewis and end Cory Redding.

There probably isn't a Colorado-quality challenger to Oklahoma and Texas in the south division. Texas Tech might have an edge on Texas A&M for the third spot if for no other reason than the Aggies must play at Colorado, Kansas State and Oklahoma as well as at Lubbock.

Tech and A&M both have experienced quarterbacks, who have shown the ability to air it out. The Red Raiders' slender Kliff Kingsbury led the conference, throwing for 3,418 yards and 21 touchdowns, while the Aggies'

Mark Farris passed for a school single-season record 2,551 yards and 10 scores.

Oklahoma State has a new head coach in Les Miles, who showed the importance of assistants by taking less money for himself so that his staff could be paid more than \$1 million. That investment might take some time to pay off, however. The Cowboys don't have an abundance of talent.

Even though Baylor will be hard-pressed to escape the south division's cellar, the Bears should be improved after a season in which they ranked at or near the bottom of the conference — and the nation, for that matter — in just about every major statistical category, offensively and defensively.

After the euphoria of only the second nine-victory season in school history and a bowl trip and

victory, Iowa State will come back to the harsh reality of an also-ran, while Kansas Coach Terry Allen feels make-or-break pressure and Missouri has the enthusiasm of new Coach Gary Pinkel.

The lower-division teams in both the north and the south can take some hope from Oklahoma's turnaround, which occurred in just three seasons. In 1998, the Sooners were 5-6. In 1999, Stoops' first season as coach, they were 7-5. And in 2000, they were 13-0 and national champions.

Stoops accepts the pressure of his program's success. "I've said for two years that I wanted expectations to rise, that we should be expected to win and compete for championships," he said after the Orange Bowl victory. "I welcome that, and certainly that's what we're going to push for every year." ■

In Review 2000 Season

FINAL STANDINGS

	CONFERENCE					OVERALL				
	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA	W	L	PCT.	PF	PA
North Division										
Kansas State	6	2	.750	278	186	11	3	.769	514	240
Nebraska	6	2	.750	338	163	10	2	.818	456	213
Iowa State	5	3	.625	220	242	9	3	.750	304	293
Colorado	3	5	.375	200	222	3	8	.273	252	284
Kansas	2	6	.250	179	308	4	7	.364	261	359
Missouri	2	6	.250	186	253	3	8	.273	255	348
South Division										
Oklahoma	8	0	1.000	299	133	13	0	1.000	468	192
Texas	7	1	.875	301	160	9	3	.750	425	197
Texas A&M	5	3	.625	201	152	7	5	.636	307	196
Texas Tech	3	5	.375	202	212	7	6	.583	303	238
Oklahoma State	1	7	.125	137	249	3	8	.273	202	303
Baylor	0	8	.000	83	343	2	9	.182	139	397

POSTSEASON ACTION

Big 12 Championship Game

Oklahoma 27, Kansas State 24

Gallerymfurniture.com Bowl

East Carolina 40, Texas Tech 27

Insight.com Bowl

Iowa State 37, Pittsburgh 29

Holiday Bowl

Oregon 35, Texas 30

Alamo Bowl

Nebraska 66, Northwestern 17

Independence Bowl

Mississippi State 43, Texas A&M 41

Cotton Bowl

Kansas State 35, Tennessee 21

Orange Bowl

Oklahoma 13, Florida State 2

TEAM STATISTICS

RUSHING OFFENSE

	G	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	YPG
1. Nebraska	11	636	3842	6.0	45	349.3
2. Iowa State	11	446	2299	5.2	27	209.0
3. Kansas State	13	595	2575	4.3	42	198.1
4. Oklahoma St.	11	430	1776	4.1	13	161.5
5. Kansas	11	470	1731	3.7	20	157.4
6. Missouri	11	451	1696	3.8	19	154.2
7. Texas A&M	11	421	1610	3.8	28	146.4
8. Texas	11	406	1600	3.9	19	145.4
9. Oklahoma	12	410	1615	3.9	32	134.6
10. Colorado	11	408	1342	3.3	15	122.0
11. Baylor	11	360	802	2.2	5	72.9
12. Texas Tech	12	304	797	2.6	10	66.4

RUSHING DEFENSE

	G	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	YPG
1. Texas	11	388	1027	2.6	12	93.4
2. Kansas State	13	473	1276	2.7	20	98.2
3. Texas A&M	11	389	1169	3.0	7	106.3
4. Oklahoma	12	412	1298	3.2	13	108.2
5. Nebraska	11	345	1251	3.6	12	113.7
6. Oklahoma St.	11	374	1395	3.7	15	126.8
7. Texas Tech	12	495	1879	3.8	20	156.6
8. Missouri	11	479	1803	3.8	21	150.3
9. Colorado	11	472	1926	4.1	15	175.1
10. Iowa State	11	484	2159	4.5	23	196.3
11. Kansas	11	491	2178	4.4	30	198.0
12. Baylor	11	474	2299	4.9	32	209.0

PASSING OFFENSE

	G	AT	CP	IN	PCT	YDS	YPA	TD	YPG
1. TT	12	614	373	18	60.7	3554	5.8	21	296.2
2. OU	12	450	289	17	64.2	3536	7.9	22	294.7
3. UT	11	397	220	14	55.4	3225	8.1	26	293.2
4. CU	11	368	215	9	58.4	2640	7.2	13	240.0
5. A&M	11	355	211	9	59.4	2588	7.3	10	235.3
6. ISU	11	342	175	13	51.5	2370	6.9	9	215.5
7. KSU	11	338	166	13	49.1	2755	8.2	19	211.9
8. OSU	11	354	189	14	53.4	2184	6.2	9	198.5
9. MU	11	335	157	19	46.9	2165	6.5	12	196.8
10. KU	11	321	145	11	45.2	2023	6.3	10	183.9
11. BAY	11	359	145	20	40.4	1638	4.6	10	148.9
12. NU	11	172	84	8	48.8	1217	7.1	11	110.6

PASS EFFICIENCY DEFENSE

	G	ATT	CMP	YDS	TD	INT	PTS
1. Texas	11	378	171	2027	8	17	88.3
2. Oklahoma	12	397	196	2049	9	22	89.1
3. Kansas State	13	399	204	2241	8	20	94.9
4. Nebraska	11	393	179	2291	10	14	95.8
5. Texas Tech	12	343	177	1969	7	15	97.8
6. Texas A&M	11	366	194	2369	13	18	109.3
7. Iowa State	11	331	163	2308	15	10	116.7
8. Missouri	11	311	164	2287	15	14	121.4
9. Oklahoma St.	11	404	229	2783	20	10	125.9
10. Kansas	11	299	173	2229	12	11	126.4
11. Baylor	11	348	198	2556	17	9	129.5
12. Colorado	11	350	208	2717	17	11	134.4

TOTAL OFFENSE

	G	PLYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YPG
1. Nebraska	11	808	5069	6.3	56	459.9
2. Texas	11	803	4825	6.0	45	438.6
3. Oklahoma	12	860	5151	6.0	54	429.2
4. Iowa State	11	788	4669	5.9	36	424.5
5. Kansas State	13	933	5330	5.7	61	410.0
6. Texas A&M	11	776	4198	5.4	38	381.6
7. Texas Tech	12	918	4351	4.7	31	362.6
8. Colorado	11	776	4198	5.4	38	381.6
9. Oklahoma St.	11	784	3960	5.1	22	360.0
10. Missouri	11	786	3861	4.9	31	351.0
11. Kansas	11	791	3754	4.7	30	341.3
12. Baylor	11	719	2440	3.4	15	221.8

TOTAL DEFENSE

	G	PLYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YPG
1. Kansas State	13	872	3517	4.0	28	270.5
2. Texas	11	766	3054	4.0	20	277.6
3. Oklahoma	12	809	3347	4.1	22	278.9
4. Texas Tech	12	838	3848	4.6	27	320.7
5. Texas A&M	11	755	3538	4.7	20	321.6
6. Nebraska	11	738	3540	4.8	22	321.8
7. Missouri	11	812	4036	5.0	37	366.9
8. Oklahoma St.	11	778	4178	5.4	35	379.8
9. Kansas	11	790	4407	5.6	42	400.6
10. Iowa State	11	815	4467	5.5	38	406.1
11. Colorado	11	822	4643	5.6	32	422.1
12. Baylor	11	822	4855	5.9	49	441.4

SCORING OFFENSE

	G	PTS	AVG	TD	K	P	K	P	FG	SAF
1. NU	11	456	41.5	63	61	1	0	0	5	0
2. KSU	13	514	39.5	66	59	2	0	0	17	2
3. OU	12	468	39.0	61	59	1	0	0	13	1
4. UT	11	425	38.6	51	41	5	0	0	22	1
5. A&M	11	307	27.9	38	34	0	0	0	15	0
6. ISU	11	306	27.8	39	28	1	0	0	14	0
7. TT	12	303	25.2	38	35	1	0	0	12	1
8. KU	11	261	23.7	33	29	1	1	0	10	0
9. MU	11	255	23.2	33	26	0	0	0	9	2
10. CU	11	252	22.9	32	27	2	0	0	9	1
11. OSU	11	202	18.4	24	20	0	1	0	12	0
12. BAY	11	139	12.6	18	14	1	0	0	5	0

SCORING DEFENSE

	G	PTS	AVG	TD	KXP	2XP	FG	SF
1. OU	12	192	16.0	25	22	1	6	0
2. A&M	11	196	17.8	23	19	2	11	1
3. UT	11	197	17.9	26	24	0	5	0
4. KSU	13	240	18.5	29	26	1	12	1
5. NU	11	213	19.4	26	22	1	11	0
6. TT	12	238	19.8	30	26	1	10	0
7. CU	11	284	25.8	34	26	2	16	1
8. ISU	11	293	26.6	38	30	1	11	0
9. OSU	11	303	27.5	39	31	0	12	1
10. MU	11	348	31.6	47	37	3	7	1
11. KU	11	359	32.6	46	44	0	13	0
12. BAY	11	397	36.1	52	47	1	12	0

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING

Player, School, Class	G	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	YPG
1. Ennis Haywood, ISU, Jr.	10	229	1237	5.4	8	123.7
2. Dan Alexander, NU, Sr.	11	181	1152	6.4	8	104.7
3. Hodges Mitchell, UT, Sr.	11	224	1118	5.0	8	101.6
4. Reggie White, OSU, Jr.	11	210	1049	5.0	4	95.4
5. Eric Crouch, NU, Jr.	11	170	973	5.7	20	88.5
6. Correll Buckhalter, NU, Sr.	11	106	750	7.1	7	68.2
7. Quentin Griffin, OU, So.	12	189	783	4.1	16	65.2
8. David Winbush, KU, Sr.	11	163	701	4.3	5	63.7
9. Zain Gilmore, MU, Jr.	11	139	632	4.5	7	57.5
10. Zack Abbron, MU, Fr.	9	140	502	3.6	5	55.8
11. Josh Scobey, KSU, Jr.	13	169	718	4.2	16	55.2
12. Darrell Bush, BAY, Sr.	11	133	517	3.9	2	47.0

PASSING EFFICIENCY

(Min. Five Attempts Per Game)							RATING
Player, School, Class	G	AT	CP	PCT	I	YDS	TD
1. Chris Simms, UT, So	11	117	67	57.3	7	1060	8
2. Josh Heupel, OU, Sr.	12	433	280	64.7	14	3392	20
3. Major Applewhite, UT, Jr.	9	279	152	54.5	7	2164	18
4. Jonathan Beasley, KSU, Sr.	13	313	156	49.8	10	2636	17
5. Mark Farris, A&M, So.	11	347	208	59.9	9	2551	10
6. Eric Crouch, NU, Jr.	11	156	75	48.1	7	1101	11
7. Kliff Kingsbury, TT, So.	12	585	362	61.9	17	3418	21
8. Sage Rosenfels, ISU, Sr.	11	333	172	51.7	12	2298	8
9. Aso Pogi, OSU, Fr.	10	247	139	56.3	11	1550	6
10. Dylon Smith, KU, Sr.	11	306	140	45.8	11	1963	10
11. Darius Outlaw, MU, Fr.	10	225	105	46.7	16	1391	9

RECEPTIONS PER GAME

Player, School, Class	G	REC	YDS	TD	RPG	YPC
1. Robert Ferguson, A&M, Jr.	10	58	885	6	5.8	15.3
2. Tim Baker, TT, Sr.	12	69	765	7	5.8	11.1
3. Quincy Morgan, KSU, Sr.	13	64	1166	14	4.9	18.2
4. J.J. Moses, ISU, Sr.	11	53	775	4	4.8	14.6
5. Harrison Hill, KU, Jr.	10	47	591	1	4.7	12.6
6. Derek Dorris, TT, Sr.	12	56	574	9	4.7	10.2
7. Javon Green, CU, Sr.	11	48	699	4	4.4	14.6
8. John Minardi, CU, Jr.	11	48	592	2	4.4	12.3
9. Ricky Williams, TT, Sr.	12	52	228	2	4.3	4.4
10. Justin Gage, MU, So.	11	44	709	4	4.0	16.1
11. Antwone Savage, OU, So.	12	48	598	3	4.0	12.5
12. Shaud Williams, TT, So.	12	48	299	0	4.0	6.2

ALL-PURPOSE RUNNERS

Player, School, Class	G	RUN	REC	PR	KO	YDS	YPG
1. Hodges Mitchell, UT, Sr.	11	1118	386	427	0	1931	175.5
2. Ennis Haywood, ISU, Jr.	10	1237	211	0	0	1448	144.8
3. J.J. Moses, ISU, Sr.	11	153	775	226	291	1445	131.4
4. Aaron Lockett, KSU, Jr.	13	62	584	501	312	1459	112.2
5. Reggie White, OSU, Jr.	11	1049	123	0	0	1172	106.5
6. Dan Alexander, NU, Sr.	11	1152	17	0	0	1169	106.3
7. David Winbush, KU, Sr.	11	701	268	0	196	1165	105.9
8. Quincy Morgan, KSU, Sr.	13	11	1166	0	160	1337	102.8
9. Quentin Griffin, OU, So.	12	783	406	0	0	1189	99.1
10. Wes Walker, TT, Fr.	12	72	334	353	306	1065	88.8
11. Eric Crouch, NU, Jr.	11	973	0	0	0	973	88.5
12. J.T. Thatcher, OU, Sr.	12	0	0	599	264	863	71.9

RECEIVING YARDS PER GAME

Player, School, Class	G	REC	YDS	TD	YPG	CPG
1. Quincy Morgan, KSU, Sr.	13	64	1166	14	89.7	4.9
2. Robert Ferguson, A&M, Jr.	10	58	885	6	88.5	5.8
3. Roy Williams, UT, Fr.	10	40	809	8	80.9	4.0
4. J.J. Moses, ISU, Sr.	11	52	777	4	70.6	4.7
5. Justin Gage, MU, So.	11	44	709	5	64.5	4.0
6. Tim Baker, TT, Sr.	12	69	765	7	63.8	5.7
7. Javon Green, CU, Sr.	11	48	699	4	63.6	4.4
8. B.J. Johnson, UT, Sr.	11	41	698	3	63.5	3.7
9. Harrison Hill, KU, Jr.	10	47	591	1	59.1	4.7
10. Reggie Newhouse, BAY, So.	11	40	629	4	57.2	3.6
11. Antwone Savage, OU, So.	12	48	598	3	49.8	4.0
12. John Minardi, CU, Jr.	11	48	592	2	53.8	4.4

TOTAL OFFENSE

Player, School, Class	G	PLAYS	RUSH	PASS	TOTAL	YPG
1. Josh Heupel, OU, Sr.	12	503	144	3392	3536	294.7
2. Kliff Kingsbury, TT, So.	12	663	19	3418	3437	286.4
3. Sage Rosenfels, ISU, Sr.	11	411	381	2298	2679	243.5
4. Mark Farris, A&M, So.	11	407	116	2551	2667	242.5
5. Jonathon Beasley, KSU, Sr.	13	462	499	2636	3135	241.2
6. Major Applewhite, UT, Jr.	9	307	-73	2164	2091	252.3
7. Dylon Smith, KU, Sr.	11	431	371	1963	2334	212.2
8. Eric Crouch, NU, Jr.	11	326	973	1101	2074	188.5
9. Aso Pogi, OSU, Fr.	10	332	159	1550	1709	170.9
10. Darius Outlaw, MU, Fr.	10	335	259	1391	1650	165.0
11. Ennis Haywood, ISU, Jr.	10	230	1237	11	1248	124.8
12. Dan Alexander, NU, Sr.	11	181	1152	0	1152	104.7

SCORING

Player, School, Class	G	TD	XP	FG	PTS	PTPG
1. Eric Crouch, NU, Jr.	11	20	0	0	120	10.9
2. Kris Stockton, UT, Sr.	11	0	41	22	107	9.7
3. Jamie Rheem, KSU, Sr.	12	0	49	17	100	8.3
4. Tim Duncan, OU, Jr.	12	0	49	17	100	8.2
5. Quentin Griffin, OU, So.	12	16	0	0	96	8.0
6. Jonathon Beasley, KSU, Sr.	13	17	1	0	104	8.0
7. Ja'Mar Toombs, A&M, Jr.	11	14	0	0	84	7.6
8. Josh Scobey, KSU, Jr.	13	16	40	0	96	7.4
9. Terence Kitchens, A&M, Sr.	11	0	34	15	79	7.2
10. Josh Brown, NU, So.	11	0	60	5	75	6.8
11. Quincy Morgan, KSU, Sr.	13	14	0	0	84	6.5
12. Hodges Mitchell, UT, Sr.	11	11	2	0	70	6.4

INTERCEPTIONS

Player, School, Class	G	NO	YDS	TD	IPG
1. J.T. Thatcher, OU, Sr.	12	8	162	1	.67
2. Jerametrius Butler, KSU, Jr.	13	6	47	0	.46
3. Troy Watchorn, NU, Sr.	11	5	64	1	.45
4. Antoine Duncan, MU, Fr.	10	4	3	0	.40
4. Terrance Kiel, A&M, So.	10	4	0	0	.40
6. Dyshod Carter, KSU, Sr.	13	5	11	0	.38
7. Greg Brown, UT, Sr.	11	4	28	1	.36
7. Sammy Davis, A&M, So.	11	4	25	0	.36
9. Twelve players tied with .30					

2000 FIRST-TEAM ALL-BIG 12 FOOTBALL

(Selections were unanimous Big 12 Coaches and Associated Press unless noted /2001 returners in bold/2000 classification shown)

OFFENSE

WR	Quincy Morgan, Sr., Kansas State
WR	Robert Ferguson, Jr. Texas A&M
TE	Tracey Wistrom, Jr., Nebraska
OL	Dominic Raiola, Jr., Nebraska
OL	Leonard Davis, Sr., Texas
OL	Seth McKinney, Jr., Texas A&M, C
OL	Andre Gurode, Jr., Colorado, C
OL	Randall Cummins, Sr., Kansas State, C
OL	Ben Bruns, Sr., Iowa State, AP
OL	Russ Hochstein, Sr., Nebraska, AP
OL	Frank Romero, Jr., Oklahoma, AP
QB	Josh Heupel, Sr., Oklahoma
RB	Hodges Mitchell, Sr., Texas
RB	Ennis Haywood, Jr., Iowa State
RB	Dan Alexander, Sr., Nebraska, C
PK	Jamie Rheem, Sr., Kansas State
PR	Aaron Lockett, Jr., Kansas State

DEFENSE

DE	Jason Glenn, Sr., Texas A&M
DE	Justin Smith, Jr., Missouri
DE	Monty Beisel, Sr., Kansas State, AP
IL	Mario Fatafehi, Sr., Kansas State
IL	Casey Hampton, Sr., Texas
IL	Ryan Fisher, Sr. Oklahoma, C
LB	Rocky Calmus, Jr., Oklahoma
LB	Carlos Polk, Sr., Nebraska
LB	Torrance Marshall, Sr., Oklahoma, AP
DB	Roy Williams, So., Oklahoma
DB	J.T. Thatcher, Sr., Oklahoma
DB	Jerametrius Butler, Jr., Kansas St., C
DB	Quentin Jammer, Jr., Texas, C
DB	Gary Baxter, Sr., Baylor, AP
DB	Kevin Curtis, Jr., Texas Tech, AP
P	Dan Hadenfeldt, Sr., Nebraska, C
P	Jeff Ferguson, Jr., Oklahoma, AP

SPECIALTY HONORS

Coach of the Year

Bob Stoops,
Oklahoma

Offensive

Player of the Year

Josh Heupel, Oklahoma

Defensive

Player of the Year

Casey Hampton, Texas

Offensive

Newcomer of the Year

Robert Ferguson, Texas A&M

Defensive

Newcomer of the Year

Derrick Yates, Kansas State

Offensive

Freshman of the Year

Roy Williams, Oklahoma

Defensive

Freshman of the Year

Terry Pierce, Kansas State

**Colorado****Iowa State****Kansas****Kansas State****Missouri****Nebraska**

Aug 25	Fresno St.*					TCU**
Sep 1	Colo. St. (Denver)		SW Missouri		Bowling Green	Troy State
Sep 8	San Jose St.	No. Iowa	UCLA	@ USC	SW Texas	Notre Dame
Sep 15	@ Washington St.	Iowa	Wyoming	La. Tech	@ Michigan St.	Rice
Sep 22	Kansas	@ Ohio	@ Colorado	New Mexico St.		
Sep 29		Baylor		@ Oklahoma	Nebraska	@ Missouri
Oct 6	@ Kansas St.	@ Nebraska	@ Texas Tech	Colorado	@ Oklahoma St.	Iowa St.
Oct 13	Texas A&M	@ Missouri	Oklahoma	@ Texas Tech	Iowa St.	@ Baylor
Oct 20	@ Texas	Oklahoma St.	Missouri	Texas A&M	@ Kansas	Texas Tech
Oct 27	@ Oklahoma St.	@ Texas A&M	@ Kansas St.	Kansas	Texas	Oklahoma
Nov 3	Missouri	Kansas St.	Nebraska	@ Iowa St.	@ Colorado	@ Kansas
Nov 10	@ Iowa St.	Colorado	@ Texas	@ Nebraska	Baylor	Kansas St.
Nov 17		@ Kansas	Iowa St.	Missouri	@ Kansas St.	
Nov 23	Nebraska*****					@ Colorado*****

2001 BIG 12 SCHEDULES

**Baylor****Oklahoma****Oklahoma St.****Texas****Texas A&M****Texas Tech**

Aug 25		N. Carolina***				
Sep 1		@ Air Force	@ So. Mississippi	New Mexico St.	McNeese St.	
Sep 8	Arkansas St.	North Texas	La. Tech	North Carolina	@ Wyoming****	New Mexico
Sep 15	@ Minnesota	Tulsa	No. Arizona			@ UTEP
Sep 22	New Mexico		@ Texas A&M	@ Houston	Oklahoma St.	@ N. Texas (Irving)
Sep 29	@ Iowa St.	Kansas St.		Texas Tech	Notre Dame	@ Texas
Oct 6	@ Texas A&M	Texas (Dallas)	Missouri	Oklahoma (Dallas)	Baylor	Kansas
Oct 13	Nebraska	@ Kansas	Texas	@ Oklahoma St.	@ Colorado	Kansas St.
Oct 20	@ Oklahoma	Baylor	@ Iowa St.	Colorado	@ Kansas St.	@ Nebraska
Oct 27	Texas Tech	@ Nebraska	Colorado	@ Missouri	Iowa St.	@ Baylor
Nov 3	Texas			@ Baylor	@ Texas Tech	Texas A&M
Nov 10	@ Missouri	Texas A&M	Texas Tech	Kansas	@ Oklahoma	@ Oklahoma St.
Nov 17	Oklahoma St.	@ Texas Tech	@ Baylor			Oklahoma
Nov 24		Oklahoma St.	@ Oklahoma	@ Texas A&M*****	Texas*****	

*Jim Thorpe Classic, Sunday, Aug. 26

**Pigskin Classic

*** Hispanic Student Scholarship Fund Game

****Thursday, Sept. 6

*****Friday, Nov. 23



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NU-8 THROUGH NU-10 AVAILABLE IN
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NU-2



BACK
NU-3



NU-4



NU-5



NU-6



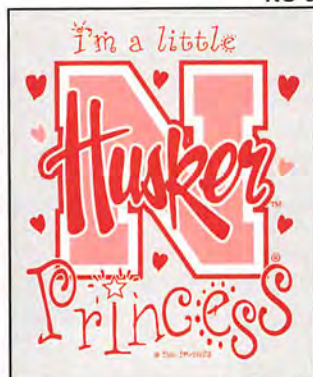
NU-7



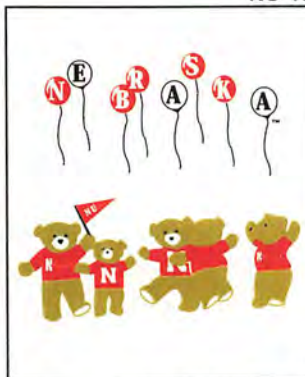
NU-8



NU-9



NU-10



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BIG 12 BREAKDOWN

AT LEAST THREE POSITIONS OPENED UP on the Huskers Illustrated 2001 All-Big 12 team because of those who left school early for the NFL. Nebraska center Dominic Raiola, Missouri defensive end Justin Smith and Texas A&M wide receiver Robert Ferguson would have been included.

Cornhusker cornerback Keyuo Craver, Colorado linebacker Jashon Sykes and Texas defensive back Quentin Jammer were among Big 12 underclassmen who considered moving on.

Sykes and Jammer might have been more serious than Craver, who held true to a commitment he made to his mom when he came to Nebraska that he would finish a degree before leaving. ■

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED PRESEASON ALL-BIG 12 TEAM

OFFENSE

Pos.	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	School
WR	Roy Williams	6-5	210	So.	Texas
WR	Antwone Savage	6-1	190	Jr.	Oklahoma
TE	Tracey Wistrom	6-5	240	Sr.	Nebraska
OL	Andre Gurode	6-4	320	Sr.	Colorado
OL	Seth McKinney	6-3	290	Sr.	Texas A&M
OL	Toniu Fonoti	6-4	340	Jr.	Nebraska
OL	Frank Romero	6-4	286	Sr.	Oklahoma
OL	Mike Williams	6-6	339	Sr.	Texas
QB	Eric Crouch	6-1	200	Sr.	Nebraska
RB	Ennis Haywood	5-11	206	Sr.	Iowa State
RB	Quentin Griffin	5-6	187	Jr.	Oklahoma
PK	Tim Duncan	6-2	198	Jr.	Oklahoma
KR	Victor Ike	5-11	195	Jr.	Texas

DEFENSE

DL	Nate Dwyer	6-3	300	Sr.	Kansas
DL	Ty Warren	6-4	294	Jr.	Texas A&M
DL	Justin Bannan	6-3	295	Sr.	Colorado
DL	Cory Redding	6-5	260	Jr.	Texas
LB	Rocky Calmus	6-3	234	Sr.	Oklahoma
LB	Lawrence Flugence	6-1	221	Jr.	Texas Tech
LB	Jashon Sykes	6-3	230	Sr.	Colorado
DB	Roy Williams	6-0	221	Jr.	Oklahoma
DB	Keyuo Craver	5-10	190	Sr.	Nebraska
DB	Quentin Jammer	6-1	198	Sr.	Texas
DB	Kevin Curtis	6-3	209	Sr.	Texas Tech
P	Jeff Ferguson	5-10	190	Sr.	Oklahoma
PR	Aaron Lockett	5-7	165	Sr.	Kansas State

QUARTERBACK



Texas' **CHRIS SIMMS**

UT	Simms wins starting job.
NU	Still running with Crouch.
CU	Rising young star in Ochs.
TT	Kingsbury rewrites records.
A&M	Farris proven prolific passer.
OU	Hybl, or maybe White.
MU	Farmer frustrated Huskers.
OSU	Pogi shoulders the load.
KSU	Might have another Bishop.
ISU	Transfer Wallace could surprise.
BAY	Cicero returns, healthy.
KU	Starting competition continues.

DEFENSIVE LINE



Nebraska's **CHRIS KELSAY**

NU	Solid across, end to end.
UT	Tubbs' turn to take over.
KU	Dwyer holds his own.
A&M	Bernard's return a key.
CU	Bannan best since Clavelle.
OU	Talented young players.
KSU	Front must be rebuilt.
OSU	New system could help.
TT	Problem with injuries.
MU	Smith will be missed.
ISU	Weak against the run.
BAY	Size remains an issue.

RUNNING BACK



Iowa State's ENNIS HAYWOOD

ISU	More than just Haywood.
CU	Houston's health a concern.
KSU	Scobey gets the job done.
NU	Diedrick a clearcut No. 1.
OU	Diminutive Griffin does it all.
MU	Experience for a new system.
A&M	Big plays badly needed.
UT	Frosh Benson could impact.
OSU	Bell averaged 5.1 yards.
TT	Only one Williams now.
BAY	Bears unproven at tailback.
KU	Jayhawks must start over.

LINEBACKER



Oklahoma's ROCKY CALMUS

OU	Calmus, Big 12's best.
UT	Lewis leads the way.
CU	Sykes back for Butkus.
KSU	Pierce-Leber dynamic duo.
TT	Flugence familiar now.
NU	Stella's return would help.
MU	Deepest defensive position.
A&M	Gamble plugs the middle.
OSU	Levels a tackling machine.
ISU	Two returning starters.
KU	Rogers makes the plays.
BAY	Sophomores side to side.

RECEIVER



Kansas' HARRISON HILL

OU	Sooners loaded again.
UT	Williams, Johnson and more.
CU	Graham's a good one.
MU	Gage, and lots of potential.
KSU	'Cats go to Lockett now.
KU	Hill leaving his mark.
TT	Paige a prize transfer.
BAY	Speedy, but unproven.
A&M	Ferguson's loss critical.
NU	Gibson's return welcome.
OSU	None ranked in top 12.
ISU	Immediate juco help.

SECONDARY



Texas' QUENTIN JAMMER

UT	Welcome back, Jammer.
NU	Booker, free or strong.
OU	Losing Thompson hurts.
CU	Lewis does it all.
TT	Curtis stops them cold.
A&M	Potential young stars.
KSU	McGraw makes big plays.
MU	Jones is the veteran.
KU	Sorry, no budding Nesmith.
ISU	Position switches help.
OSU	Reinforcements needed.
BAY	Newcomers at corners.

OFFENSIVE LINE



Nebraska's TONI FOTI

NU	Foti, or Volk, for Outland.
CU	Gurode as good as it gets.
UT	Big, with senior foundation.
KSU	Three starters returning.
A&M	McKinney center of attention.
OU	Quarterbacks rarely sacked.
MU	Hayes can play either side.
ISU	Built around White, Howard.
TT	Kingsbury needs protection.
KU	Jucos arrived for spring drills.
OSU	Learning a new system.
BAY	Bolstered by transfers.

KICKING GAME



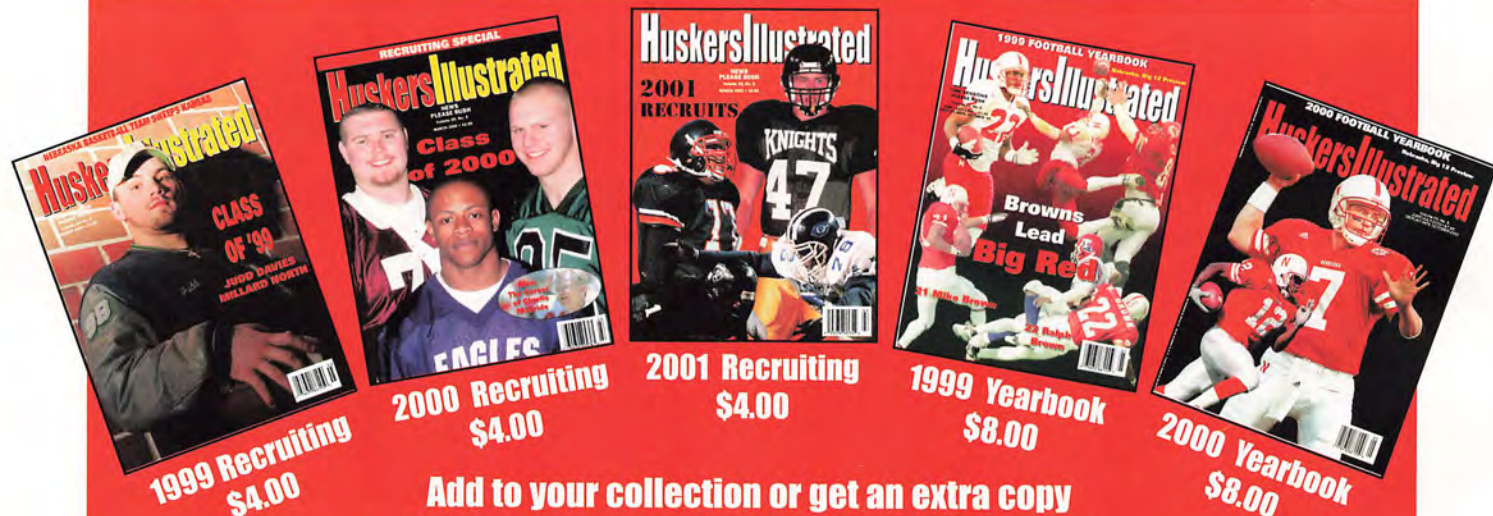
Kansas State's AARON LOCKETT

OU	Duncan, Ferguson again.
KSU	Lockett breaks up games.
UT	McFadden replaces Stockton.
TT	Welker can score on punts.
A&M	Solid in all areas.
NU	Coverage must improve.
CU	Worst field goal percentage.
OSU	Overall a concern.
ISU	Billups replaces Moses.
BAY	Stiles punted 81 times.
MU	Punt coverage deficient.
KU	New kicker and punter.

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S C O U T I

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2001?

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of old rivals
could take
place Dec. 1 at
Texas Stadium***

ING REPORTS

CONFERENCE

NORTH

- 1 Nebraska** . . . sights set on Irving
- 2 Kansas State** . . . defensive rebuilding
- 3 Colorado** . . . back in contention
- 4 Iowa State** . . . another bowl is goal
- 5 Kansas** . . . heat on, interest off
- 6 Missouri** . . . new coach, and energy

SOUTH

- 1 Oklahoma** . . . national title defense
- 2 Texas** . . . loaded, as usual
- 3 Texas Tech** . . . best of the rest
- 4 Texas A&M** . . . offensive staff shifts
- 5 Oklahoma State** . . . paying the price
- 6 Baylor** . . . can't get much worse

KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

Kansas State has won at least nine games during each of the past eight seasons, something only Nebraska, Florida State and Florida also have accomplished since 1993.

The Wildcats have only 17 losses during that time. And six have been to Nebraska.

That the losses have been "confined to Nebraska is almost assuring," Coach Bill Snyder said at a media gathering sponsored by the Big 12 Conference last July in Kansas City.

Snyder continued, clarifying what he meant by "assuring."

"I have as much respect for Nebraska as anyone in the country," he said. "We have to understand that we're playing against a national championship football team year in and year out."

Nebraska has been Snyder's nemesis, defeating his Wildcats in 10 of 12 games. But ironically enough, Kansas State also has been something of a nemesis for Cornhusker Coach Frank Solich, whose teams have lost two of three games against the Wildcats — both of them in Manhattan.

Even so, Snyder continues to maintain that his program hasn't reached the level of Nebraska's. "If you win enough games long enough, then somebody is going to say you are good," he said. "Nebraska has been doing this for 34 years. I can't put us in the same category with Nebraska."

Snyder's hesitancy notwithstanding, the facts seem to indicate that Kansas State has become Nebraska's equal in recent seasons. In fact, the Wildcats have won 11 games for four consecutive seasons, and only one other NCAA Division I-A program has done that — Florida State's.

Kansas State's record during that stretch was 44-7. So was Nebraska's.

So even though Snyder is faced with having to rebuild a team which has just six returning starters on offense and three returning starters on defense, there's no reason to think Kansas State won't be a serious contender in the Big

12's north division. The Wildcats will have to be reckoned with.

Whether or not Kansas State can get back to the conference championship game for a third time in the past four seasons, however, will depend on how well Snyder can integrate largely untested and young players into the system with which he has worked his miracles in Manhattan.

One such player is sophomore quarterback Ell Roberson III, who emerged atop the depth chart in competition with junior college transfer Marc Dunn during spring practice.

Roberson drew comparisons with former Kansas State quarterback Michael Bishop for his performance the previous spring, but saw only limited action as Jonathan Beasley's back-up last season. Roberson is "in line to have a tremendous future," Snyder said last July.

Based on his play this spring, the future could be now.

The 6-foot-1, 190-pound Roberson, who has option skills, capped it off by completing 11-of-22 passes for 176 yards in leading his team to a 44-6 victory in the spring game.

Even so, Dunn isn't out of the picture. His passing skills can't be ignored. He was the National Junior College Athletic Association "Offensive Player of the Year" at Ricks, Idaho, College, completing 281-of-465 passes for 4,351 yards and 42 touchdowns, with only 17 interceptions.

The Wildcat offense was more run-oriented last season,

prompting Nebraska defensive coordinator Craig Bohl to note, "They've really made a commitment to the running game."

That commitment depended in large measure on tailback Josh Scobey, whose opportunity to be the featured back came because of an injury to David Allen. Scobey responded by leading the team in rushing, with 718 yards on 169 carries (4.2), and touchdowns, with a school-record 16.

Scobey provides "an excellent combination of power and speed," said Bohl.

The offensive line that will enable him to utilize those

Kansas State Sports Information



Senior Ben Leber led Kansas State's linebackers with 55 tackles and 3.5 sacks.

abilities includes three returning starters, all of them seniors: guards Andy Eby and John Robertson and tackle Thomas Barnett.

Sophomore Nick Leckey, one of only two true freshmen to play for the Wildcats last season, is among those competing for the other starting positions. He worked at center during the spring.

Fullback Rock Cartwright also will help clear the way for Scobey. Cartwright, a junior college transfer who arrived at Kansas State just before the start of fall practice, was a pleasant surprise, starting five of the last six games. He averaged 6 yards per carry and scored five touchdowns.

Wide receiver Aaron Lockett, the other returning offensive starter, led the nation in punt returns last season, averaging 22.8 yards per return, and was second on the team in

receptions, with 36 for 584 yards and two touchdowns. He also returned three punts for touchdowns.

With the departure of Quincy Morgan, Lockett becomes the go-to receiver.

The Wildcats will have lots of new faces on defense, where linebackers Ben Leber and Terry Pierce and defensive back Jon McGraw are considered the only returning starters.

Linebacker Warren Lott also started four games in the middle of the season.

Leber, a second-team all-conference selection, led the linebackers in tackles with 55, including 38 solo and 3.5 sacks, while Pierce

Wide receiver Aaron Lockett led the nation in punt returns and becomes the go-to receiver.

came on to earn Big 12 "Defensive Freshman of the Year" recognition from the conference coaches. McGraw was the team's second-leading tackler, with 81.

McGraw, who can play either safety position, has proven himself to be a big-play defender. He made 10 tackles-for-loss, including two sacks, and intercepted three passes.

The burden of replacing strong safety Jarrod Cooper could fall on senior Milton Proctor, while DeRon Tyler, DeMarcus Faggins and Terence Newman are among the cornerback candidates.

The defensive losses were particularly heavy up front. Senior tackle Jerry Togiai played well late last season, making a career-high six tackles against Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game, and sophomore Justin Montgomery saw some action as the season went along. But the Wildcats aren't likely to stop opponents the way they did in 2000, when they ranked fourth in the nation in total defense.

They also won't be able to count on place-kicker Jamie Rheem, whose successor could be Jared Brite, the only other true freshman (along with Leckey) Kansas State used last season.

Punter Travis Brown returns, but he'll be pushed by junior college transfer Rick Gerla.

Considering their personnel losses, the Wildcats will be hard-pressed to win at least nine games this season. But then, no one thought Snyder, or anyone else, could turn the program around, either. ■ — *By Mike Babcock*



AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

STRENGTHS

Bill Snyder isn't often out-coached, which is why he ranks second only to Florida State's **Bobby Bowden** in coaching victories over the past five seasons. Bowden's record during that time is 45-5. Snyder's is 44-7. Also, the Wildcats should again be solid in the kicking game.

QUESTION MARKS

Kansas State's defense has to be considered suspect, with only three returning starters, none of whom play in the defensive line. Also, the schedule doesn't favor the Wildcats, who open the season at Southern California and open Big 12 Conference play at defending national champion Oklahoma in addition to playing Nebraska at Lincoln, where they haven't won since 1968.

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

Senior wide receiver **Aaron Lockett** led the nation in punt returns last season, returning three for touchdowns, and averaged 22.3 yards on 14 kickoff returns. He also has 2,043 career-receiving yards and with a productive final season could pass his brother Kevin at the top of the Wildcats' list.

Kevin Lockett had 3,032 career-receiving yards.

Aaron also could catch his brother on the Wildcats' list for 100-yard receiving games. Aaron is fifth, with six. Kevin is tied with **Quincy Morgan** and **Michael Smith** atop the list with nine.

GIVE ME SIX

Senior safety **Jon McGraw** not only was a sure tackler but he also intercepted three passes in 2000, including two against Colorado. He returned one of the two 71 yards for a touchdown.

2nd
NORTH
DIVISION

2000 RECORD: 11-3
CONFERENCE FINISH: 6-2

A 28	Iowa#	W, 27-7
S 2	Louisiana Tech	W, 54-10
S 16	Ball State	W, 76-0
S 23	North Texas	W, 55-10
S 30	@ Colorado	W, 44-21
O 7	@ Kansas	W, 52-13
O 14	Oklahoma	L, 41-31
O 21	Texas Tech	W, 28-23
O 28	@ Texas A&M	L, 26-10
N 4	Iowa State	W, 56-10
N 11	Nebraska	W, 29-28
N 18	@ Missouri	W, 28-24
D 2	Oklahoma%	L, 27-24
J 1	Tennessee&	W, 35-21

#Eddie Robinson Classic, Kansas City
%Big 12 Championship, Kansas City
&Cotton Bowl, Dallas

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

WR	Brandon Clark	6-3	220	Sr.	LE	Thomas Houchin	6-3	235	So.
	Chris DeVore	6-2	200	Sr.	or	Alex Carrier	6-4	230	Fr.
LT	Matt Martin	6-5	270	Sr.	DT	Jerry Togiai	6-4	295	So.
	Oshin Honarchian	6-5	290	Sr.		Justin Montgomery	6-1	275	So.
LG	Andy Eby	6-3	280	Sr.	NT	Eric Everley	6-6	322	Sr.
	Chris Boggas	6-5	315	Fr.		Cory Hoffman	6-5	275	Jr.
C	Nick Leckey	6-4	285	So.	RE	Melvin Williams	6-3	250	Jr.
	Steve Washington	6-4	315	Jr.		Andrew Shull	6-5	245	So.
RG	John Robertson	6-4	291	Jr.	LB	Ben Leber	6-4	250	Sr.
	Ben Rettele	6-7	282	So.		Andy Klocke	6-2	220	Jr.
RT	Thomas Barnett	6-5	290	Sr.	LB	Terry Pierce	6-3	250	So.
	Billy Miller	6-5	275	Sr.		Bryan Hickman	6-3	220	So.
TE	Nick Warren	6-7	255	Sr.	LB	Warren Lott	6-3	230	Sr.
	Thomas Hill	6-5	256	So.	or	Josh Buhl	6-0	200	So.
QB	Ell Roberson	6-0	190	So.	CB	DeRon Tyler	5-8	170	Sr.
	Marc Dunn	6-4	205	Jr.	or	DeMarcus Faggins	5-11	175	Sr.
RB	Josh Scobey	6-0	205	Sr.	FS	Jon McGraw	6-3	200	Sr.
	Danny Morris	5-11	200	So.		Derrick Yates	6-2	185	Sr.
FB	Rock Cartwright	5-8	242	Sr.	SS	Milton Proctor	6-0	200	Jr.
	Nick Hoheisel	6-1	230	Jr.		Alan Walker	6-2	175	So.
WR	Aaron Lockett	5-7	165	Sr.	CB	Terence Newman	5-11	170	Jr.
	Ricky Lloyd	5-10	160	Sr.		James Dunnigan	5-7	180	Jr.
PK	Jared Brite	6-2	185	So.	P	Travis Brown	6-4	215	Jr.

Players with starting experience in bold

COLORADO BUFFALOES

Defense dominated Colorado's spring intrasquad game. And though third-year Coach Gary Barnett was disappointed by the play of an error-plagued offense, he also was pleased.

"I was really excited by the defense," he said afterward.

If the Buffaloes are to rebound from last season's 3-8 record, they must improve markedly on defense. They ranked near the bottom of the Big 12 in nearly every major category, including rushing defense (9th), total defense (11th), passing defense (11th) and pass efficiency defense (12th).

On the average, they allowed 422.1 yards and 25.8 points per game. "We just gave up too many big plays," Barnett said, adding that they were particularly vulnerable on the corners.

Nebraska exploited that vulnerability to escape with a 34-32 victory at Lincoln. The Cornhuskers drove 47 yards in 47 seconds to set up a 29-yard, Josh Brown field goal on the game's final play. Quarterback Eric Crouch completed 4-of-5 passes during the drive.

"We have to get some confidence back there in the secondary," said Barnett.

As incentive, he adjusted the scoring in the spring game, awarding the defense points for stopping drives (2), stopping drives on fourth down (3) and turnovers (5). He matched the first- and second-team defenses against the first- and second-team offenses. And the defense won 48-9.

The offense managed only three field goals, two by Pat Brougham and one by Derek Moore. Jeremy Flores, who figures to be the place-kicker, missed most of the spring with an ankle sprain.

"Our defense gained a lot of confidence," Barnett said of the scrimmage.

Linebacker Jashon Sykes, strong safety Michael Lewis and tackle Justin Bannan, all of them all-conference-caliber players, provide a solid foundation for the Buffaloes' defense.

Sykes is coming off what he has described as a disap-

pointing junior season, one in which he was credited with 111 tackles and 13 third-down stops. He had considered leaving early for the NFL, but "I feel like my stock dropped a bit after this season," he said in announcing he would remain.

"I want to raise my stock and try to be a first-round draft pick. My college accolades are very important to me; that's part of being a great college player."

Though his statistics were impressive by most standards,

he didn't consistently make big plays the way he did as a sophomore, when he forced a nation-leading seven fumbles.

Lewis was a positive in the secondary, leading Big 12 defensive backs in tackles with 117 and leading the Buffaloes in pass break-ups, touchdowns saved, fumbles forced and interceptions. He was second to Sykes in third-down stops and was chosen as the team's co-most valuable player.

With Lewis and free safety Robbie Robinson, Colorado is solid at the inside positions in the secondary. Robinson was third on the team in tackles with 97.

The defensive scheme was sound, according to Barnett. "Last year it didn't matter what scheme we were in," he said. "We gave up too many big plays because we had too many breakdowns.

"It's not the scheme. It's how you hold up at each position."

Bannan, a third-team all-conference selection, held his own, despite consistently drawing double teams. He could be Colorado's best down linemen since Shannon Clavelle (1992-95).

The Buffaloes' other returning defensive starters are cornerbacks Phil Jackson and Donald Strickland, outside linebacker Kory Mossoni and inside linebacker Andy Peeke. Cornerbacks Roderick Sneed and Terrence Wood and outside linebacker Drew Wahlroos also have started.

Rush end Marques Harris is considered a rising star, as is inside linebacker Sean Tufts, who was the leading tackler in

Colorado Sports Information



All-Big 12 guard Andre Gurode is being promoted as an Outland Trophy candidate.

the spring game. Harris and Tufts are sophomores.

Defensive end Tyler Brayton, the top pass rusher, also had an outstanding spring.

Colorado's spring-game offensive problems weren't entirely attributable to the defense, however. Several key offensive players were sidelined, among them quarterback Craig Ochs, running backs Cortlen Johnson and Marcus Houston, tackle Victor Rogers and center Ryan Gray.

Ochs, who missed half the spring with an ankle sprain, was impressive as a freshman, after taking over as the starter in the fifth game. The Boulder native completed 145-of-245 passes (59.2 percent) for a school-freshman-record 1,778 yards and seven touchdowns. After a slow start in the near-upset of Nebraska, he completed 21 of his final 30 passes for 235 yards and a touchdown.



Colorado Sports Information

Strong safety Michael Lewis led the Big 12 in tackles with 117, and led the team in interceptions and passes broken up.

that's not true this time around.

Gray, Karl Allis and Justin Bates also are returning starters in the line.

They'll clear the way for Johnson, Houston and Bobby Purify, who will comprise a triple-threat at tailback, assuming they're all healthy. Johnson, the returning starter, was hampered by a quad strain in the spring, and then was suspended indefinitely for academic reasons. Houston missed all of spring practice and the final eight-plus games of last season because of a hip flexor.

Among Barnett's offensive goals has been to develop consistency in the running game. And it would appear that he has the players to do that, if they can avoid injury.

Despite missing three games because of injuries last season, Johnson rushed for 622 yards and eight touchdowns to earn all-conference honorable mention, and Houston, whose running style Barnett has compared to that of Eric Dickerson, rushed for 332 yards (in just three games) before the hip flexor.

Houston is "at full-speed in two steps," said Barnett.

If Colorado is to take advantage of such abilities, however, it must be more consistent in stopping opponents, as last season's loss against Nebraska proved so dramatically.

The Buffaloes gained more yards and had more first downs. But they couldn't make 32 points hold up — for just 47 seconds. ■ — *By Mike Babcock*

Ochs has a solid group of receivers to whom he can throw, including tight end Daniel Graham and wideouts John Minardi, Roman Hollowell, Cedric Cormier and Derek McCoy.

Graham, like Sykes, considered leaving early for the NFL. He caught more passes than any tight end in the conference last season, 33, for 443 yards and a touchdown, while Minardi became Ochs' go-to receiver, catching 31 passes for 424 yards in the final five games.

Rogers and guard Andre Gurode, whom the Buffaloes are promoting as an Outland Trophy candidate, anchor the offensive line. They were flanked by inexperience last season but



AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

3rd

NORTH DIVISION

STRENGTHS

The Buffaloes are at least three deep in quality tailbacks, assuming everyone is healthy, with senior **Cortlen Johnson**, freshman **Marcus Houston** and sophomore **Bobby Purify**. Sophomore quarterback **Craig Ochs** has shown he can run when he has to, but his strong suit is passing.

QUESTION MARKS

Colorado's cornerback play was lacking last season. It was a significant factor in the Buffaloes' inability to prevent big plays. A healthy **Jeremy Flores** could rectify a serious problem in the kicking game. Colorado was last in the Big 12 in field goal percentage a year ago. Flores, a senior, suffered from a hip flexor, which prohibited him from kicking field goals but not punting.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

A determined **Jashon Sykes** will lead what Coach **Gary Barnett** hopes is a rejuvenated defense. Sykes has his sights set on becoming the third Buffalo to win the Butkus Award as the nation's top collegiate linebacker. Colorado's previous winners were **Alfred Williams** (1989) and **Matt Russell** (1996).

SHUFFLING STARTERS

Injuries have so hindered the Buffaloes in recent seasons that they haven't used the same starting lineup on offense in consecutive games since the end of the 1997 season.

YOUTH MOVEMENT

The Buffaloes played 10 true freshmen last season, more than the combined number of true freshmen who played in the three previous seasons, when 44 of 52 were redshirted.

2000 RECORD: 3-8 CONFERENCE FINISH: 3-5

S 2	Colorado St.	L, 28-24
S 9	@ Southern Cal	L, 17-14
S 16	Washington	L, 17-14
S 30	Kansas State	L, 44-21
O 7	@ Texas A&M	W, 26-19
O 14	Texas	L, 28-14
O 21	@ Kansas	L, 23-15
O 28	Oklahoma St.	W, 37-21
N 4	@ Missouri	W, 28-18
N 11	Iowa State	L, 35-27
N 24	@ Nebraska	L, 34-32

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

WR	John Minardi	6-2 200 Sr.	DE	Matt McChesney	6-5 280 So.
	Derek McCoy	6-3 210 So.		Marques Harris	6-2 220 So.
WR	Roman Hollowell	5-6 160 Sr.	DT	Justin Bannan	6-3 295 Sr.
	Cedric Cormier	5-11 185 Sr.		Brandon Dabdoub	6-1 295 Fr.
ST	Justin Bates	6-4 295 Jr.	DT	Sam Taulealea	6-0 320 Jr.
	Dan Major	6-6 290 So.		Brandon Boswell	5-10 240 Jr.
SG	Marwan Hage	6-3 295 So.	DE	Tyler Brayton	6-6 265 Jr.
	Rawle King	6-6 310 Jr.		Sam Wilder	6-5 265 Fr.
C	Ryan Gray	6-3 290 Jr.	ILB	Sean Tufts	6-4 225 So.
	Wayne Lucier	6-4 300 Jr.		Andy Peeke	6-0 200 Sr.
TG	Andre Gurode	6-4 320 Sr.	ILB	Jashon Sykes	6-3 230 Sr.
	Josh Foster	6-6 300 Jr.		Joey Johnson	6-2 220 Jr.
TT	Victor Rogers	6-7 320 Sr.	OLB	Kory Mossoni	6-3 230 Jr.
	Derek Stemrich	6-6 270 Fr.		Drew Wahlros	6-3 235 Jr.
TE	Daniel Graham	6-3 245 Sr.	LC	Roderick Sneed	6-0 180 Jr.
	Quinn Sypniewski	6-6 255 So.		Clyde Surrell	5-10 180 So.
QB	Craig Ochs	6-2 215 So.	SS	Michael Lewis	6-1 210 Sr.
	Bobby Pesavento	6-5 225 Sr.		Devlin Richardson	5-11 190 Fr.
TB	Cortlen Johnson	5-9 210 Sr.	FS	Robbie Robinson	5-11 200 Sr.
	Marcus Houston	6-2 205 Fr.		Matt Durren	6-0 200 Sr.
FB	Brandon Drumm	6-2 230 Jr.	RC	Phil Jackson	6-1 180 So.
	Scott Nemeth	6-2 235 Sr.		Terrence Wood	5-10 175 Sr.
PK	Jeremy Flores	5-10 185 Sr.	P	Scott Mariscal	6-2 195 Jr.

Players with starting experience in bold

IOWA STATE CYCLONES

Dan McCarney's sixth season as head coach at Iowa State might well have been his last. According to speculation beforehand, if the Cyclones didn't have a winning record and, by so doing, earn a bowl invitation, McCarney could be looking for employment elsewhere.

"A lot of people weren't sure along the way whether I was the right guy or not," McCarney said following a 38-17 victory against Kansas that capped an 8-3 regular season and sent the Cyclones to the Insight-com Bowl in Phoenix, where they defeated Pittsburgh.

"It's been a long, long road. We've almost had to move a mountain, and it's been one grain, one pebble, at a time. We just tried to do it the right way."

That and the Cyclones' success earned McCarney a three-year extension on a contract worth \$600,000 annually, with a base salary of \$200,000. The contract now runs through Jan. 1, 2005.

"I think the future of Iowa State football is very bright," Iowa State Athletic Director Bruce Van De Velde said in announcing the extension and raise — the previous base was \$169,855.

Van De Velde might be right. But Iowa State will be hard-pressed to repeat its success following the departure of several key players, most notably quarterback Sage Rosenfels, wide receiver and kick returner J.J. Moses, defensive end Reggie Hayward and defensive tackle James Reed.

Ennis Haywood does return, however, and the Big 12's leading rusher is a good place to begin rebuilding an offense based on the run. "Our football team goes as our rush offense goes," McCarney said during last season's run. "If we run the football, we're a pretty good football team."

To illustrate his point, in their eight regular-season victories, the Cyclones averaged 260 yards rushing, while in their three losses, they averaged only 73 yards rushing.

They were second to Nebraska in the Big 12 and 17th nationally in rushing.

The 5-foot-11, 206-pound Haywood, the fourth Cyclone in the past six seasons to lead the conference in rushing, gained 1,237 yards and scored eight touchdowns in 10

games. "He has a great knack for finding creases," said Cornhusker Coach Frank Solich. "He's a guy who is so instinctive that they don't need to have everything blocked because if there's a crease, he'll find it."

He didn't find many creases against Nebraska, rushing for only 27 yards.

Haywood also has a knack for holding onto the ball. He has yet to lose a fumble in 314 carries and 358 total touches at Iowa State. He has fumbled once and the Cyclones recovered.

When Haywood missed the Oklahoma State game because of injury, sophomore Michael Wagner stepped in and rushed for 170 yards and two touchdowns. Wagner also rushed for 100 yards — as did Haywood — coming off the bench against Kansas. The Cyclones are well-stocked at tailback.

Rosenfels played a significant role in the failed upset bid of the Cornhuskers. Seneca Wallace, a transfer from Sacramento, Calif., City College, likely will replace him. Wallace, who enrolled in January and played well during the spring, has both an extremely strong arm and the ability to run.

In Iowa State's spring intrasquad game, he completed 7-of-11 passes for 124 yards and carried eight times for 72 yards, 35 coming on an impressive touchdown run.

"Seneca's exactly what we're looking for in our offense," McCarney said. "I think when it's all over and he finishes his career, people will be shocked at how few schools recruited him."

Wallace, who is credited with having run the 40-yard dash in 4.3 seconds, committed to Oregon State out of high school in Sacramento but didn't meet freshman eligibility requirements.

He amassed 4,225 total offense yards and accounted for 31 touchdowns last season.

Cyclone Illustrated



Ennis Haywood was the Big 12's top rusher with 1,237 yards. He averaged 5.4 yards per carry and had 8 touchdowns.

An offensive line built around returning starters Marcel Howard and Lorenzo White will be responsible for protecting Wallace, or whoever emerges at quarterback, with Craig Campbell leading a group of wide receivers that includes Lane Danielson and Jamaul Montgomery.

Campbell, who caught three passes for 119 yards and a touchdown against Nebraska last season, is a returning starter, as are tight end Mike Banks and fullback Joe Woodley.

Wide receiver was an area of recruiting emphasis. Iowa State signed five, more players than at any other position, including junior college transfers David Banks-Bursey and Lance Young.

The Cyclones also looked to junior colleges for help on defense, where only three bowl starters return from a unit that wasn't particularly strong last season, ranking 10th in the Big 12 and 88th nationally in total defense, allowing 406.1 yards and 26.6 points per game. The returning starters are linebackers Chris Whitaker and Justin Eilers and free safety Marc Timmons.

Even with Hayward and Reed up front, Iowa State had difficulty stopping the run. The Cyclones ranked 95th in the nation against the run, allowing 4.5 yards per rush.

McCarney did some shifting of personnel during the spring in an attempt to shore up the defense. Sophomore Tyson Smith, who played on special teams as a true freshman, was among those

switching positions. He moved from linebacker to defensive end, replacing Hayward.

In addition, DeAndre Phillips was moved from wide receiver to defensive back, while Brent Kellogg and Andy Leaders were both moved from linebacker to the defensive line, joining junior college transfer Beau Coleman, who enrolled in January and went through spring practice.

Smith and Jamaime Billups, who also played as a true freshman and is the heir apparent to Moses as a big-play kick returner, were prize recruits. The Cyclones' success last season, and the fact that seven of their games plus the bowl were televised, should make attracting such players a little easier.

McCarney has noticed the difference already. The caliber of player he was able to bring to campus for visits last recruiting season was "better than it's ever been," he said.

Iowa State's last winning season was in 1989. And its last bowl game was in 1978. So his sixth team left a significant legacy, said McCarney, enabling the program to shed its losing image.

"They can't win. They've never won. They don't go to bowl games," he said, summarizing the image.

"Well, we just got done doing that."

Whether his seventh team can come even close is another matter. ■ — *By Mike Babcock*



Cyclone Illustrated

Weakside linebacker Justin Eilers, a junior college transfer, came on strong at the end of the 2000 season.



AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

STRENGTHS

The Cyclones are deep at tailback, where three sophomores back up senior **Ennis**

Haywood: Michael Wagner, Hiawatha Rutland and **Jamaime Billups**, also a top kick returner.

QUESTION MARKS

Depth is a problem, particularly on defense, where the Cyclones will have to depend on newcomers. The kicking game also must improve. Iowa State ranked last in the conference in extra-point-kick percentage (.824). It also ranked near the bottom in net punting and kickoff coverage.

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

Haywood is versatile. He is not only a good bet to successfully defend his conference rushing title but also a receiving threat out of the backfield. He caught 25 passes for 211 yards last season.

GRANT SWITCHES

Former Cornhusker quarterback **Mike Grant** will be Haywood's position coach. Grant coached the Cyclone outside linebackers last season, after coaching the secondary for two seasons. Grant, a Nebraska graduate assistant from 1994 to 1996, replaced **Tony Alford** as running backs coach.

HISTORIC SEASON

The Cyclones' nine victories last season equaled the most in school history. The only other time Iowa State won nine games was in 1906. The bowl-game victory against Pittsburgh was Iowa State's first in five post-season tries.

4th
NORTH
DIVISION

2000 RECORD: 9-3 CONFERENCE FINISH: 5-3

S 2	Ohio	W, 25-15
S 9	UNLV	W, 37-22
S 16	@ Iowa	W, 24-14
S 30	@ Baylor	W, 31-17
O 7	Nebraska	L, 49-27
O 14	@ Oklahoma St.	W, 33-26
O 21	Texas A&M	L, 30-7
O 28	Missouri	W, 39-20
N 4	@ Kansas St.	L, 56-10
N 11	@ Colorado	W, 35-27
N 18	Kansas	W, 38-17
D 28	Pittsburgh&	W, 37-29

&insight.com bowl

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

SE	Lane Danielson	6-0	195	So.	RE	Brett Kellogg	6-2	248	Fr.
	Jack Whitver	5-11	181	So.		Beau Coleman	6-1	235	Jr.
LT	Marcel Howard	6-6	321	Sr.	DT	Jordan Carstens	6-5	291	So.
	Jared Bucks	6-3	273	Sr.		Andy Leaders	6-3	250	Fr.
LG	Bob Montgomery	6-3	302	So.	NG	Willie Judd	6-3	282	Sr.
	Brian Donahue	6-5	275	Sr.		Cale Stubbe	6-4	275	Fr.
C	Zach Butler	6-4	290	Jr.	END	Kevin DeRonde	6-5	257	Sr.
	Kerry Carlson	6-3	300	Jr.		Tim TeBrink	6-3	258	Fr.
RG	Lorenzo White	6-5	344	Sr.	OLB	Tyson Smith	6-2	230	So.
	Luke VanderSanden	6-3	287	Fr.		Jeremy Loyd	6-2	220	Jr.
RT	Cory Hannen	6-5	307	Sr.	MLB	Chris Whitaker	6-0	227	Jr.
	Casey Shelton	6-6	285	So.		Brent Nash	5-11	240	Fr.
WR	Craig Campbell	5-11	185	Sr.	WLB	Justin Eilers	6-2	230	Sr.
	Jesse Arnold	6-3	196	Jr.		Matt Word	6-0	230	Jr.
QB	Seneca Wallace	6-1	181	Jr.	SS	Adam Runk	6-2	183	Sr.
	Cris Love	6-5	210	Fr.		Nick Linder	5-10	187	So.
TB	Ennis Haywood	5-11	218	Sr.	LCB	Atif Austin	5-9	180	Jr.
	Michael Wagner	5-7	187	So.		Johnny Smith	5-11	170	So.
FB	Joe Woodley	5-11	237	So.	FS	Marc Timmons	5-10	160	So.
	Frank Garcia	5-10	244	So.		Anthony Forrest	6-0	194	Fr.
TE	Mike Banks	6-4	248	Sr.	RCB	Bryan Ollie	5-8	180	So.
	Kyle Knock	6-2	260	Jr.		DeAndre Phillips	5-9	195	So.
PK	Tony Yelk	6-0	201	Fr.	P	Casey Baldwin	6-2	211	So.

Players with starting experience in bold

KANSAS JAYHAWKS

Kansas Coach Terry Allen wasted no time in making changes. "You always have changes when you have a nine-man staff," he said following a season-ending, 38-17 loss at Iowa State.

Less than two weeks after the Iowa State game, Allen gave substance to his assertion, dismissing defensive coordinator Ardell Wiegandt and offensive line coach Walt Klinker, who had a combined 30 seasons as assistants on his coaching staffs at Kansas and Northern Iowa.

A day later, tight ends coach Todd Middleton resigned.

"I think there is a sense of urgency from all of us right now, from the players to the coaches and administrators," said Allen. "To go through four losing seasons is very difficult."

He also promoted Darrell Wyatt to associate head coach and offensive coordinator, replacing Bill Salmon — who remained as running backs coach — in that capacity.

Barely a month later, Wyatt resigned to become passing coordinator at Oklahoma State. So Allen became offensive coordinator again, after two seasons of delegating those duties.

Allen's restructured staff has its work cut out, not only producing a winner after five consecutive losing seasons, the last four under Allen, but also creating interest in the program.

Attendance is on the decline. The Jayhawks' average attendance last season was only 32,216. And some of Memorial Stadium's recently-built "scholarship suites" have yet to be leased.

It appeared Allen might get things turned around a year ago. Seven games into the season, the Jayhawks still had hopes, though admittedly slim, of earning their first bowl bid since 1995. But they dropped their last four games, allowing a combined 190 points in the process.

Their collapse was further illustrated by the fact that after eight games, they ranked 40th nationally in total defense, a marked improvement over the 1999 season. After losses to Nebraska, Texas and Iowa State, however, they dropped to 80th in total defense — worse than 1999's final

ranking of 74.

Nebraska, Texas and Iowa State also humbled the Jayhawks' run defense, rushing for 1,168 yards between them. Kansas went into that stretch allowing conference opponents an average of only 97.6 rushing yards per game. That average jumped to 214 yards at season's end.

"The defensive front got beat toward the latter part of the year," said Allen.

That didn't apply to everyone on the defensive front,

though. Nose tackle Nate Dwyer held his own. The second-team All-Big 12 selection was involved in 68 tackles, the most by a Kansas down lineman since 1993, including a team-high 17 for losses totaling 67 yards and seven sacks.

Dwyer is among seven defensive starters returning, which is a plus from an experience standpoint despite the shortcomings. "We just need to get a little more physical," Allen said.

Ends Ervin Holloman and De'Nard Whitfield, linebackers Algie Atkinson and Marcus Rogers and cornerbacks Andrew Davison and Quincy Roe are the other starters.

Rogers, along with Dwyer a defensive co-captain, was tied for second on the team in tackles with 91. He might have led the team in tackles had he not been slowed by injury in the season



Defensive tackle Nate Dwyer was involved in 68 tackles, the most by a Kansas down lineman since 1993, and had seven sacks.

finale.

Davison is a steady performer, with 27 consecutive starts and two interception returns for touchdowns during his career. One of those, a 40-yarder, came against Texas last season. Roe, the fastest player in the secondary, broke up 14 passes and intercepted three.

Safety Carl Nesmith, the leading tackler and second-team all-conference, was the most significant loss on defense. Allen has supplemented the returning starters with four junior college transfers, three of whom went through spring practice: linebackers Greg Cole, Charlie Dennis and Leo Etienne.

Allen also turned to junior colleges for help in the offensive line. Four of the Jayhawks' nine junior college transfers were offensive linemen, all of whom participated in spring practice.

Guard Bob Smith, center Nick Smith and tackle Justin Hartwig are among six returning starters on offense, along with wide receivers Harrison Hill, Termaine Fulton and Roger Ross.

Hill has led the Jayhawks in pass receptions the past two seasons and could become the school career-leader in catches and receiving yards. He caught 47 passes for 591 yards last season. Fulton is a big-play receiver, with 17 of his 58 career receptions gaining at least 25 yards and 11 going for scores.

The diminutive Ross, a junior college transfer, started in a three-wideout alignment and finished second to Hill in receptions, with 29 for 481 yards and four touchdowns.

In all, the top five wide receivers return. But the Jayhawks will have a new quarterback and running backs, following the departures of Dylon Smith, David Winbush and Moran Norris.

Sophomore Reggie Duncan, who came off the bench to rush for 96 yards and a touchdown against Nebraska, figures to be Winbush's successor at tailback. Duncan is compact, with a quick burst and 4.54 speed in the 40. But he played only sparingly last season, carrying just 54 times.

Senior split end Harrison Hill is the leading returning receiver in the Big 12, with 47 catches for 591 yards and one touchdown last season.

Replacements for Norris, a third-team all-conference selection, at fullback and Smith at quarterback are less certain. And even with Smith, Winbush and Norris, Kansas ranked 77th nationally in total offense and 82nd in passing offense, an area in which Allen's teams at Northern Iowa excelled.

Redshirted freshman Mario Kinsey, who played for the Jayhawk basketball team, has impeccable credentials. He passed for 2,003 yards and 23 touchdowns as a high school senior in Waco, Texas. He's athletic with a strong throwing arm, and was impressive on the scout team.

However, Kinsey didn't distance himself from sophomore Zach Dyer — who threw only 12 passes last season — during spring practice, so their competition will continue in fall camp. If neither distinguishes himself, Kevin Long, another redshirted freshman, could win the job.

The Jayhawks have a seven-game home schedule, with Oklahoma, Nebraska and UCLA all coming to Lawrence. That's both attractive and daunting for a program under fire.

No Kansas football coach has ever endured four consecutive losing seasons and retained his job until now. The personable Allen, who has established a good relationship with reporters, was asked if he would consider changing his personality. "If that's what it takes, sure," he said.

And even that might not be enough. ■



AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

STRENGTHS

The Jayhawks have depth at wide receiver, with the top five returning from last season:

Harrison Hill, Roger Ross, Termaine Fulton, J.T. Thompson and Byron Gasaway. Thompson, the only true freshman to see action, and Gasaway caught only 14 passes between them, however.

QUESTION MARKS

In addition to its defensive deficiencies last season, Kansas ranked last in the conference in net punting, averaging only 29.9 yards (net) per punt. That must improve. The Jayhawks also have significant questions in the backfield as well as in the line on offense.

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

Though he can't do it by himself, nose tackle **Nate Dwyer** will help keep opponents honest. Despite drawing double-teams, the 6-foot-3, 300-pound senior from Stillwater, Minn., tied for the team lead in sacks and was chosen by teammates as the most valuable player. He's mobile despite his size, and predictably strong. He has a bench press of 400 pounds and a squat lift of 600 pounds.

HUSKER JINX

Kansas has lost 32 games in a row against Nebraska, dating to 1968 when the Jayhawks won at Lincoln 23-13. The 32-game losing streak, one team to another, is tied for the second longest in NCAA Division I-A history, behind Navy's 37 consecutive losses against Notre Dame.

VETERAN TEAM

For what it's worth, the Kansas roster includes 20 seniors and 28 juniors. But eight redshirted freshmen figured prominently on the top defensive units during the spring.

5th
NORTH
DIVISION

2000 RECORD: 4-7 CONFERENCE FINISH: 2-6

S 2	@ SMU	L, 31-17
S 16	Ala.-Birmingham	W, 23-20
S 23	So. Illinois	W, 42-0
S 30	@ Oklahoma	L, 34-16
O 7	Kansas St.	L, 52-13
O 14	@ Missouri	W, 38-17
O 21	Colorado	W, 23-15
O 28	Texas Tech	L, 45-39
N 4	@ Nebraska	L, 56-17
N 11	Texas	L, 51-16
N 18	@ Iowa St.	L, 38-17



Kansas Sports Information

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

SE	Harrison Hill	5-11 195 Sr.	LE	Travis Watkins	6-4 270 Fr.
	J.T. Thompson	5-10 190 So.		Clarence Laws	6-4 260 Fr.
LT	Justin Sands	6-7 295 Jr.	NT	Nate Dwyer	6-3 300 Sr.
	Jawad Pearson	6-5 300 Jr.		Marquis Hayes	6-4 265 Sr.
LG	Bob Smith	6-4 290 Sr.	RT	Ervin Holloman	6-3 290 Sr.
or	Kyle Grady	6-5 305 Jr.		Marquis Hayes	6-4 265 Sr.
C	Nick Smith	6-4 280 Jr.	RE	Charlie Dennis	6-5 230 Jr.
	Greg Nicks	6-4 300 So.		David McMillan	6-4 245 Fr.
RG	Jason Stevenson	6-2 285 Sr.	SLB	Algie Atkinson	6-5 240 Sr.
	Tony Damiani	6-4 290 Jr.		Greg Cole	6-2 230 Jr.
RT	Justin Hartwig	6-4 295 Sr.	MLB	Marcus Rogers	6-1 235 Sr.
	Gabe Rosalis	6-5 295 Jr.		Brandon Watkins	6-2 210 Fr.
TE	David Hurst	6-3 255 Jr.	WLB	Glenn Robinson	6-3 230 So.
or	Adrian Jones	6-5 255 So.	or	Leo Etienne	6-0 210 Jr.
QB	Zach Dyer	6-3 200 So.	LC	Andrew Davison	5-11 185 Sr.
	Mario Kinsey	6-1 195 Fr.		Matt Jordan	5-10 190 Jr.
FL	Termaine Fulton	5-10 190 Sr.	SS	Jake Letourneau	6-2 195 Jr.
	Byron Gasaway	6-4 210 Jr.		Santana Lane	6-0 180 Fr.
HB	Reggie Duncan	5-9 215 So.	FS	Jamaree Bryant	5-11 190 Sr.
	Daniel Coke	6-1 205 So.		Leo Bookman	6-1 205 Fr.
FB	Mitchell Scott	6-3 235 Jr.	RC	Quincy Roe	5-9 185 Sr.
	Austine Nwabuisi	6-1 230 Fr.	or	Carl Ivey	5-11 180 So.
PK	Case Collard	6-0 190 So.	P	Chris Tyrrell	5-11 220 Fr.

Players with starting experience in bold

MISSOURI TIGERS

Missouri has the enthusiasm of new head coach Gary Pinkel. But that enthusiasm can go only so far in effecting a turnaround in a program that has endured 15 losing seasons in the past 17.

The Tigers were 7-5 and 8-4 and played in bowl games under Larry Smith, Pinkel's predecessor, in 1997 and 1998. Otherwise, they have struggled for respectability since the early 1980s.

So after a combined record of 7-15 the past two seasons, Athletic Director Mike Alden decided to change directions by changing coaches, and hiring the 49-year-old Pinkel.

In order to do that, Alden had to fire Smith with three years remaining on his contract. Smith declined to resign, and his departure could hardly be described as amicable. He blamed the news media for his program's shortcomings, a stretch in logic underscoring the extent of the problems.

Immediately after arriving from Toledo University, where he compiled a 53-23-3 record in 10 seasons, Pinkel set about changing attitudes as well as offensive and defensive systems.

"Our football program is based on competition," he said prior to the start of spring practice. "You can be the starting quarterback or the starting free safety for the last two years in our program, but if you get beat out in the spring, that job is no longer yours. There is no pecking order around here."

"We want our players to be winners. That means changing attitudes and habits."

It also meant changing positions for 11 players.

Still, a coach can only do so much shifting. And because of a late start in recruiting, Pinkel's first team won't look dramatically different from the one Smith left behind. Though there was no pecking order and nothing was guaranteed, returning players retained their jobs for the most part.

Not everyone could, of course, because of the new offen-

sive and defensive schemes. The Tigers will operate from a one-back set on offense and a 4-4 base alignment on defense.

Offensively, Missouri will "try to be 50-percent run, 50-percent pass," said Pinkel, whose teams at Toledo depended more heavily on the run during his last six seasons.

Defensively, the Tigers will attack and try to force turnovers. Twice since 1995, Pinkel's Toledo team led the nation in turnover margin — including last season, with a plus-2.0.

Missouri Sports Information



Senior guard Mike Hayes was Missouri's most consistent offensive lineman in 2000 and started 11 games.

Junior Kirk Farmer, who's playing for a third offensive coordinator in three seasons, emerged from spring practice as the No. 1 quarterback, the job he held last season until suffering a shoulder injury in the third quarter of the Nebraska game. He put a scare in the Cornhuskers, completing 13-of-25 passes for 214 yards and a touchdown and carrying nine times for 83 yards before going to the sideline.

He also caught a pass for a 35-yard gain, evidence of his athleticism.

Farmer, who was sidelined by a broken leg during the 1999 season, regained his job at the expense of Darius Outlaw, another junior who led Missouri in total offense last season after stepping in as the starter. Outlaw passed for 1,391 yards and nine touchdowns. But he threw 16 interceptions.

Running backs Zain Gilmore and Zack Abron, both of whom have dropped a dozen or more pounds since last season, combined to rush for 1,134 yards and 12 touchdowns a year ago. Gilmore combines power and 4.4 speed in the 40, while Abron is more of a north-south runner.

Justin Gage, a converted quarterback who also plays for Coach Quin Snyder's basketball team, was voted the team's most valuable player, after catching 44 passes for 709 yards and two touchdowns. He heads up a group of receivers with "a lot of potential," said Pinkel.

The group includes senior tight end Dwayne Blakley, whose receiving numbers declined from the previous season because of his regularly drawing double coverage.

Joe Chirumbolo, a regular at fullback the past two seasons, was among those who switched positions during the spring. He is now an R-back in Pinkel's one-back alignment.

The Tigers' other receivers are young and inexperienced.

The offensive line, which Pinkel expects to be leaner, is built around guard Mike Hayes, tackle Justin Bland and center A.J. Ricker, a sophomore considered to be a rising star.

Guard Adrian Cole and tackle Aaron Crittendon also have been starters.

Pinkel's defense would have worked better had All-America end Justin Smith not decided to skip his final season of collegiate eligibility in favor of the NFL. Free safety Clarence Jones, guard Cedric Harden and linebackers Sean

Doyle and Jamonte Robinson are among the returning starters.

Jones was second on the team to Smith in tackles with 87 and intercepted three passes. He'll be the leader of a secondary manned by, among others, junior cornerbacks Terrence Curry and Antoine Duncan, both of whom have started, and also played on the offensive side.

Taurus Ferguson, a junior college running back, was among those who switched positions in the spring. He climbed to the top of the depth chart at an outside safety position in just 15 practices, joining

Gary Anthony, who started six games last season at strong safety.

Doyle and Robinson, who combined for 159 tackles, make linebacker the deepest position on defense. As a result, Antwaun Bynum was moved from linebacker to defensive end in the spring. Bynum had 24 sacks in two seasons at Hutchinson, Kan., Community College and was expected to have an immediate impact. But he was granted a medical redshirt after suffering a knee injury.

Linebackers Duke Revard, David Monroe and Sean Ain, safety Marcus Caldwell and tackle Michael Gavins are other defensive players with limited starting experience.

Pinkel also is counting on several young defenders who were redshirted last season, including linebacker James Kinney and ends Keith Wright and Nick Tarpoff.

Missouri's many problems a year ago were compounded by injuries on both sides of the ball, as well as in the kicking game. Place-kicker Brad Hammerich suffered a broken collarbone making a tackle. He's back, healthy, as is punter Jared Gilpin, who averaged 39.4 yards.

The Tigers' enthusiasm should carry into the season, considering they open at home against Bowling Green and Southwest Texas. But they travel to Michigan State before opening Big 12 Conference play against Nebraska at Columbia. That's when enthusiasm could give way to reality. ■



Inside Missouri Sports

Joe Chirumbolo, a regular at fullback, has moved to R-back in the one-back system.



AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

STRENGTHS

New Coach **Gary Pinkel** has at least two proven players at each of the offensive "skill" positions: quarterback, running back and receiver. Also, he can put a big offensive line on the field, anchored by senior guard **Mike Hayes**, the latest on Missouri's long list of outstanding linemen.

QUESTION MARKS

In addition to having to deal with inexperience on defense, particularly in the secondary, Pinkel and defensive coordinator **Matt Eberflus** must adjust for players who were recruited to play in another system. Depth is a problem on both sides of the ball, and as last season proved, injuries can be a factor.

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

If he can remain healthy, something he hasn't been able to do the past two seasons, junior quarterback **Kirk Farmer** can excel in Missouri's new offense. He's one of the best athletes on the team. He's big and strong, and deceptively fast. Before his broken leg in 1999, he ran the 40 in 4.53 seconds. He was sidelined by a shoulder injury in 2000.

NEBRASKA CONNECTION

Former Cornhusker All-American linebacker **Ed Stewart**, the 1994 Big Eight "Defensive Player of the Year," is Missouri's assistant athletic director for student services.

BORDER WAR

Pinkel doesn't intend to downplay the Missouri rivalry with Kansas. However, he doesn't plan to go overboard in emphasizing its significance, either. "It's big. It's huge," he said. "But I don't think a game like that you circle on your schedule. You should not have to say much about it."

6th
NORTH
DIVISION

2000 RECORD: 3-8 CONFERENCE FINISH: 2-6

S 2	Western Illinois	W, 50-20
S 9	@ Clemson	L, 62-9
S 16	Michigan St.	L, 13-10
S 30	@ Nebraska	L, 42-24
O 7	Oklahoma St.	W, 24-10
O 14	Kansas	L, 38-17
O 21	@ Texas	L, 46-12
O 28	@ Iowa St.	L, 39-20
N 4	Colorado	L, 28-18
N 11	@ Baylor	W, 47-22
N 18	Kansas St.	L, 28-24

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

X	Justin Gage	6-5 200 Jr.	DE	Antwaun Bynum	6-0 240 Jr.
	Shirdonya Mitchell	6-0 175 So.		Nick Tarpoff	6-3 245 Fr.
LT	Aaron Crittendon	6-5 352 Sr.	DT	Keith Wright	6-4 256 Jr.
	Rob Droege	6-6 290 So.		Howard Brown	6-3 283 So.
LG	Adrian Cole	6-4 339 Sr.	NG	Cedric Harden	6-3 311 Jr.
	J.P. Hall	6-4 289 Jr.		Chris Ryan	6-3 291 Sr.
C	A.J. Ricker	6-5 287 So.	DE	Dan Davis	6-2 246 So.
	Scott Sells	6-5 281 So.		Terrell Mills	6-4 225 Fr.
RG	Mike Hayes	6-3 308 Sr.	LB	Sean Doyle	6-0 227 Jr.
	Wes Wilson	6-4 312 Jr.		Sean Ain	6-1 226 Jr.
RT	Justin Bland	6-6 344 Sr.	LB	Jamonte Robinson	6-2 209 Sr.
	Cliff Young	6-3 308 So.		James Kinney	6-2 228 Fr.
Y	Dwayne Blakley	6-4 256 Sr.	W	Marcus Caldwell	6-0 207 So.
	J.D. McCoy	6-3 250 So.		Kevin Johnson	6-3 204 Fr.
QB	Kirk Farmer	6-5 210 Jr.	R	Taurus Ferguson	5-11 202 Jr.
	Darius Outlaw	6-4 192 Jr.		Gary Anthony	6-0 209 Jr.
TB	Zack Aborn	5-10 228 So.	CB	Antoine Duncan	5-10 177 Jr.
	Zain Gilmore	6-1 215 Sr.		Michael Harden	5-11 174 So.
RB	Joe Chirumbolo	6-2 234 Jr.	FS	Clarence Jones	6-1 199 Sr.
	Clint Matthews	6-2 218 Fr.		Kevin Johnson	6-3 204 Fr.
Z	Marcus James	5-8 169 So.	CB	Ronald Jones	6-1 151 Jr.
	Tay Jackson	5-10 178 So.		Michael Harden	5-11 174 So.
PK	Brad Hammerich	6-3 191 Sr.	P	Brock Harvey	6-2 194 Fr.

Players with starting experience in bold

OKLAHOMA SOONERS

Oklahoma Coach Bob Stoops accepts the pressure of being defending national champion. "I've said for two years that I wanted expectations to rise, that we should be expected to win and compete for championships," he said after the Sooners' 13-2 Orange Bowl victory against Florida State.

"I welcome that, and certainly that's what we're going to push for every year."

Oklahoma has wasted no time in realizing those expectations under its dynamic young coach, who, in the blink of an eye, has helped the Sooners reclaim their place among college football's elite.

Last season's national title was Oklahoma's seventh, a dramatic turnaround for a program that didn't finish in the Top 10 during the 1990s — and finished in the Top 20 only three times.

When the Sooners last came to Lincoln in 1997, they lost 69-7. Much has happened since then.

Even though a key element of the championship team is gone — quarterback Josh Heupel — the team Stoops brings to Memorial Stadium on Oct. 27 could be in the national title chase again.

That's because even though the control-passing offense directed by Heupel drew much of the attention, Oklahoma's defense was a deciding factor in the Orange Bowl, as well as throughout the season. The Sooners ranked eighth nationally in total defense, and seventh in scoring defense.

And the basis for a similar defense returns in Rocky Calmus and Roy Williams.

Cornhusker fans are all-too-familiar with Calmus, a linebacker, and Williams, a rover. In last season's 31-14 victory against Nebraska at Norman, Calmus was involved 16 tackles and Williams was involved in 10, two of them sacks of quarterback Eric Crouch for 17 yards in losses.

Calmus, the Associated Press Big 12 "Defensive Player of the Year," was the Sooners' leading tackler for the season with 125, second most in the conference. Williams was third on the team with 93.

Three other defensive players with starting experience

return, but a fourth, cornerback Michael Thompson was seriously injured in an early-May accident involving his pickup truck.

Thompson started every game as a sophomore and made a significant contribution to Oklahoma's being ranked second in the nation in pass efficiency defense. He was credited with 13 pass break-ups, regularly drawing the opposition's best receiver. Obviously, he'll be missed.

Derrick Strait, the other cornerback, was chosen AP

"Defensive Newcomer of the Year," after making 62 tackles. He was held out of contact during the spring, following shoulder surgery.

End Cory Heinecke, who came to Oklahoma as a walk-on, and free safety Brandon Everage are the other returning starters on defense. Despite sharing time with J.T. Thatcher, a consensus all-conference selection, Everage was involved in 50 tackles and started twice.

Thatcher, linebacker Torrance Marshall and now Thompson are key losses from the defense. But the Sooners are well-stocked with young talent, including 6-foot-4, 247-pound sophomore Jimmy Wilkerson, who could be Marshall's successor — if he isn't used at defensive end, instead.

Wilkerson played end in the Orange Bowl, making five tackles and deflecting two passes.

Linebacker Teddy Lehman and defensive end Dan Cody, like Wilkerson, played as true freshmen and are among those who figure prominently in the plans of defensive coordinator Mike Stoops.

Jammal Brown, a redshirted freshman defensive tackle, and

junior cornerback Terrance Sims, who was redshirted after transferring from Hutchinson, Kan., Community College, are others.

Predictably, the competition to determine Heupel's successor, involving junior Nate Hybl and sophomore Jason White, drew the most attention during spring practice. Though Hybl is the favorite, White played well enough that the competition apparently will continue in the early fall.

The 6-foot-3, 217-pound Hybl, a transfer from Georgia who played on the Bulldogs' national championship golf

Oklahoma Sports Information



Linebacker Rocky Calmus was a consensus All-America selection after compiling 125 tackles, including 17 for losses and 3 sacks.

team, threw only 16 passes as Heupel's back-up, completing nine for 144 yards and two touchdowns. But he has a stronger arm, and 4.62-second speed in the 40-yard dash.

He also has an exceptional group of receivers, including Curtis Fagan, Antwone Savage, Andre Woolfolk, Damian Mackey and Josh Norman — all juniors except Norman, a senior.

Savage, one of the team's fastest players with 4.39 speed in the 40, led in receptions, with 48 for 598 yards and three touchdowns, to earn second-team all-conference recognition from the coaches. Fagan was close behind, with 40 catches for 567 yards and a school-record seven touchdowns.

Through the first five games, he had only nine receptions for 163 yards and no touchdowns.

Woolfolk and Norman caught 70 passes between them,



and Mackey caught 26 passes as a part-time starter. Senior tight end Trent Smith caught 29 passes for 310 yards and three touchdowns, and junior F-back Quentin Griffin caught 45 passes, in addition to rushing for 783 yards and 16 scores.

Redshirted freshman Jerad Estus, who figures to back-up Griffin, also played well in the spring.

All-conference tackle Frank Romero and guards Mike Skinner and Howard Duncan are returning starters in a line that allowed an average of only one sack per 40 passing attempts.

Punter Jeff Ferguson and place-kicker Tim Duncan, both of them all-conference candidates, provide an edge in the kicking game.

Ferguson led the conference and ranked seventh in the nation, averaging 43.9 yards, one-tenth of a yard better than Nebraska's Dan Hadenfeldt, while Duncan set a school record by scoring 98 points, making 13-of-21 field goals and 59-of-60 extra-point kicks.

Bob Stoops has resuscitated the Sooner Magic with which Nebraska fans were all-too-familiar from the mid-1970s through the 1980s. And he's done it with a passing offense that seems unorthodox when compared to Oklahoma's option tradition of the Barry Switzer era.

But the former defensive coordinator at Kansas State and Florida also has done it with the kind of swift defense that once frustrated the Cornhuskers on an annual basis.

Heupel completed 20-of-34 passes for 300 yards and one touchdown against Nebraska last season. Those are impressive numbers, to be sure. But the Cornhuskers rushed for a season-low 195 yards and scored just 14 points, less than half of their season's average, 41.5.

Those numbers should have erased any doubt that Oklahoma was back. "I've said all along that we never had a date when we'd be in this position," Stoops said afterward.

But the OU coach said from the beginning that he expected it, later . . . or Sooner. ■



AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

STRENGTHS

The Sooners have arguably the best group of receivers in the country, led by juniors **Curtis Fagan** and **Antwone Savage**.

Defensively, the linebackers are potentially outstanding and the secondary is solid.

QUESTION MARKS

The starting quarterback, whether junior **Nate Hybl** or sophomore **Jason White**, will be inexperienced, as will some of the talented young players on whom the Sooners must rely defensively.

DIFFERENCE-MAKERS

Rover **Roy Williams** is a play-maker in the secondary, and an All-America candidate, as is linebacker **Rusty Calmus**, who again will anchor the defense with his steady play.

PUSHING HYBL

Although Hybl is the likely successor to **Josh Heupel** at quarterback, White, who walked on from tiny Tuttle, Okla., played well enough during spring practice that the competition for the starting job apparently will continue in the fall.

In spring scrimmages, Hybl (pronounced Hibble) completed 79-of-128 passes for 760 yards and six touchdowns. White completed 64-of-97 for 698 yards and seven touchdowns.

NEBRASKA NATIVE

Jerry Schmidt, a 1986 University of Nebraska graduate from Harvard, Neb., has played a significant role in Oklahoma's turnaround. Schmidt, a strength and conditioning coach at Nebraska as well as at Notre Dame, Oklahoma State and Florida, is the Sooners' director of sports enhancement.



2000 RECORD: 13-0 CONFERENCE FINISH: 8-0

S 2	Texas-El Paso	W, 55-14
S 9	Arkansas State	W, 45-7
S 23	Rice	W, 42-14
S 30	Kansas	W, 34-16
O 7	Texas#	W, 63-14
O 14	@ Kansas St.	W, 41-31
O 28	Nebraska	W, 31-10
N 4	@ Baylor	W, 56-7
N 11	@ Texas A&M	W, 35-31
N 18	Texas Tech	W, 27-13
N 25	@ Oklahoma St.	W, 12-7
D 2	Kansas St.%	W, 27-24
J 3	Florida St.&	W, 13-2

Cotton Bowl, Dallas
% Big 12 Championship, Kansas City
& Orange Bowl, Miami

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

WR	Andre Woolfolk	6-0 175 Jr.	DE	Cory Heinecke	6-1 242 Sr.
	Damien Mackey	5-11 185 Jr.		Marcus Chretien	6-4 245 Jr.
LT	Frank Romero	6-4 286 Sr.	DT	Chike Ozumba	6-3 278 Jr.
	Trevor Nutt	6-3 265 Sr.		Barry Holleyman	6-4 284 Sr.
LG	Josh Tucker	6-3 250 So.	DT	Kory Klein	6-2 270 So.
	Cliff Takayana	6-3 300 Fr.		Jamal Brown	6-6 310 Fr.
C	Howard Duncan	6-3 299 Sr.	DE	Dan Cody	6-4 230 So.
	Josh Smith	6-1 281 Jr.		Ronbrose Jones	6-2 225 Fr.
RG	Mike Skinner	6-4 298 Jr.	SLB	Brandon Moore	6-1 232 Sr.
	Will Mathis	6-5 303 Sr.		Brian Jimmerson	6-2 228 So.
RT	Wes Sims	6-5 310 Fr.	MLB	Teddy Lehman	6-1 232 So.
	Clint Werth	6-6 275 Jr.	or	Jimmy Wilkerson	6-4 230 So.
TE	Trent Smith	6-5 229 Jr.	WLB	Rocky Calmus	6-3 234 Sr.
	Lance Donley	6-4 225 So.		Teddy Lehman	6-1 232 So.
QB	Nate Hybl	6-3 217 Jr.	LCB	Jarvis Smith	5-9 170 So.
	Jason White	6-2 220 So.		Darren Stephens	6-3 185 Fr.
FB	Quentin Griffin	5-6 187 Jr.	SS	Roy Williams	6-0 221 Jr.
	Renaldo Works	6-1 208 So.		Terrance Sims	6-1 185 Jr.
HB	Jamar Mozee	5-10 216 So.	FS	Brandon Everage	5-11 192 So.
	Jeremy Hess	6-2 237 Jr.		Brandon Shelby	5-10 182 Fr.
WR	Curtis Fagan	6-0 175 Jr.	RCB	Derrick Strait	5-11 194 So.
	Antwone Savage	6-0 190 Jr.		Antonio Perkins	6-0 178 Fr.
PK	Tim Duncan	6-2 198 Sr.	P	Jeff Ferguson	5-10 190 Sr.

Players with starting experience in bold

TEXAS LONGHORNS

The ascent to the summit of college football is a difficult journey. Only the elite programs are able to blend the proper amount of talent, coaching and good fortune that is required to undertake the mission of competing for a chance at a national championship.

Texas is one such team armed with the necessary elements to reach the rarified air reserved for championship contenders.

Since winning back-to-back national titles in 1969 and 1970, Texas has tried in vain to get back to its once-permanent home among the heavy-weights that dot the national landscape. Thirty-one years later, Mack Brown has his Longhorns back in national prominence and in prime position for another run toward history.

One of a select few Division I-A schools currently riding a streak of three consecutive nine-win seasons, the Longhorns closed out the 2000 campaign ranked 12th in the country, their highest season-ending ranking since 1983.

"The program is growing at the pace we'd hoped it would when we came here three years ago," Brown said. "Each year we have developed more depth and experience."

Depth and experience is evident across the board for the Longhorns, who, despite losing three players in the first two rounds of the 2001 NFL Draft, are able to reload every year from a talent pool deeper than the Pacific Ocean.

Two of the most gaping holes were left by man-mountains Casey Hampton and Shaun Rogers at defensive tackle. Ready to step into one spot is sophomore Marcus Tubbs, who saw extensive playing time a season ago when Rogers was sidelined with an ankle injury. Tubbs made great strides as a freshman, finishing with 5.5 sacks and 37 tackles, including 10 for losses. His development will be critical, as will that of sophomore Adam Doiron and redshirt freshman Stevie Lee, who will also battle for playing time at the tackle position.

"Overall I think we are better in the front than we've been from top to bottom," said Texas defensive coordinator

Carl Reese. "I'm optimistic that we're going to develop and continue to improve on the defensive line."

Two reasons for Reese's optimism are junior Cory Redding and sophomore Kalen Thornton. The starters at defensive end, the pair combined for 10 sacks and 42 quarterback pressures as both players firmly established themselves as superstars in the making.

The cupboard is also full at linebacker, where all three starters return from a year ago. D.D. Lewis, a three-year

starter, is the leader of the senior trio. Lewis is a disruptive force in the middle and is ably aided by the starters on the outside, Everick Rawls and Tyrone Jones. Junior O.J. McClintock is a former high school quarterback who has found a home at linebacker and is the Longhorns' top backup.

Texas received a big boost when senior cornerback Quentin Jammer announced that he would delay the start of his pro career and return to Austin for his senior season. Widely regarded as one of the nation's top cover corners, Jammer led the Big 12 with 23 passes defended and four forced fumbles in 2000.

Although Jammer generates most of the headlines, junior Roderick Babers is the unsung star on the opposite corner. Sophomore free safety Dakarai Pearson, a second-team freshman All-America selection after picking off three passes, was a pleasant surprise last season. He and senior strong safety

Lee Jackson round out the secondary, which also includes sophomore cornerback Nathan Vasher, an explosive player with a high-octane motor.

High-octane is an understatement when it comes to the Longhorn offense. Nine starters are back from a group that ranked 14th in the nation by compiling 439 yards of offense per contest. The two starters that Texas must replace, tackle Leonard Davis, the second overall selection by the Arizona Cardinals this past April, and tailback Hodges Mitchell, are big losses. Those losses, however, will be minimized by the expansive reservoir of talent that Mack Brown

Texas Sports Information



Chris Simms led the Longhorns to blowout wins over Kansas and Texas A&M after Major Applewhite was injured.

has at his disposal.

Stepping in to replace the gargantuan shoes of Davis will likely be junior Robbie Doane. At 6-foot-6, 305 pounds, Doane has the talent and work ethic to go along with his size. Among the other starters are three productive seniors, center Matt Anderson, guard Antwan Kirk-Hughes and tackle Mike Williams. Mammoth junior Derrick Dockery occupies the other guard position. As if Texas doesn't have enough big bodies up front, the Longhorns signed seven offensive linemen that measure in at an average 6-6, 302 pounds in their most recent recruiting class.

The offensive line will be paving holes for a new starting tailback in 2001. The leading candidate for that job hasn't even arrived in Austin yet. Incoming freshman Cedric Benson, who has drawn comparisons to Emmitt Smith due to his combination of speed and power, will get an opportunity to win the job this fall. The other leading candidate is junior Victor Ike, a speedy runner who ranked 13th nationally in kickoff returns with a 24.8-yard average. Junior Kenny Hayter, sophomore Ivan Williams and redshirt freshman Sneezy Beltran will also figure into the mix.



Texas Sports Information

Senior Quentin Jammer is regarded as one of the nation's top cover corners.

their share of playing time.

Texas also welcomes back sophomore tight ends Brock Edwards and Bo Scaife, two big-play targets who will be returning from injuries this season.

Who will be launching the passes to all of these talented receivers, you ask?

Senior Major Applewhite is back for his senior season, but the Longhorns' career passing leader will likely find himself playing a backup role to junior Chris Simms this fall. Simms made his claim for the top spot late in the season, leading the Longhorns to blowout wins over Kansas and Texas A&M after Applewhite went down with his second knee injury in less than a year. Now healthy, Applewhite will see extensive playing time, but the job appears to belong to Simms. Texas also can't wait to take the wraps off of redshirt freshman Chance Mock, the heir apparent when Simms graduates.

Just about the only area where the Longhorns need help is at kicker, where redshirt freshman Matt McFadden must replace Kris Stockton, the most accurate field goal kicker in school history. McFadden has a strong leg, but looked shaky during the spring.

The Longhorns hope that McFadden can develop the type of consistency that has been the hallmark of the Texas program since Mack Brown arrived in Austin. It is that consistency that the Longhorns hope to ride to their first national title in 31 years. ■ — By Shawn Heilbron



AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

STRENGTHS

It is hard to find an area that isn't a strength for Texas, but the quarterback position features arguably the top tandem in the country with **Chris Simms** and **Major Applewhite**. The offensive tackle, defensive end and receiver positions are also loaded with excellent young players who play like veterans.

QUESTION MARK

The only concern for the Longhorns is at kicker, where the job is **Matt McFadden's** to lose. The redshirt freshman's hold on the position is tenuous at best after an inconsistent spring.

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

Quentin Jammer would have been a sure-fire first-round NFL draftee, but his decision to remain in Austin for a final season was huge for Texas. With a name that fits his playing style, Jammer makes plays all over the field, and his impact on the game is immeasurable because he changes the way opposing quarterbacks approach the passing game.

THREE NINES

Texas' current string of three consecutive nine-victory campaigns is its best since 1981-83 and its 27 wins under **Mack Brown** are the most in a three-year stretch since that same period.

DEFENSE, DEFENSE

The Longhorns ranked seventh nationally in total defense in 2000, limiting opponents to just 278.3 yards per game, the fewest yards allowed since 1983.



2000 RECORD: 9-3 CONFERENCE FINISH: 7-1

S 9	La. Lafayette	W, 52-10
S 16	@ Stanford	L, 27-24
S 23	Houston	W, 48-0
S 30	Oklahoma St.	W, 42-7
O 7	Oklahoma#	L, 63-14
O 14	@ Colorado	W, 28-14
O 21	Missouri	W, 46-12
O 28	Baylor	W, 48-14
N 4	@ Texas Tech	W, 29-17
N 11	@ Kansas	W, 51-16
N 24	Texas A&M	W, 43-17
D 29	Oregon&	L, 35-30
*Cotton Bowl, Dallas		
*Holiday Bowl, San Diego		

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

FL B.J. Johnson	6-1 190 So.	LE Cory Redding	6-5 260 Jr.
or Kyle Shanahan	6-3 170 Jr.	Jermain Anderson	6-3 232 Sr.
LT Robbie Doane	6-6 305 Jr.	LT Adam Doron	6-4 260 So.
Lionel Garr	6-7 335 Fr.	or Stevie Lee	6-4 300 Fr.
LG Derrick Dockery	6-6 330 Jr.	RT Marcus Tubbs	6-4 280 So.
Beau Baker	6-5 275 Jr.	Miguel McKay	6-1 275 Jr.
C Matt Anderson	6-4 300 Sr.	RE Kalen Thornton	6-3 270 So.
Beau Baker	6-5 275 Jr.	Maurice Gordon	6-1 246 Sr.
RG Antwon K.-Hughes	6-3 330 Sr.	SLB Tyrone Jones	6-4 225 Sr.
Tillman Holloway	6-3 297 So.	Q.J. McClintock	6-2 232 Jr.
RT Mike Williams	6-6 339 Sr.	MLB D.D. Lewis	6-1 245 Sr.
Lionel Garr	6-7 335 Fr.	Reed Boyd	6-3 230 So.
TE Brock Edwards	6-5 265 So.	WLB Everick Rawls	6-1 235 Sr.
or Bo Scaife	6-3 240 So.	Marcus Wilkins	6-2 225 Sr.
QB Chris Simms	6-5 222 Jr.	LCB Quentin Jammer	6-1 198 Sr.
Major Applewhite	6-1 207 Sr.	Ervil Hill	5-9 185 Sr.
RB Victor Ike	5-11 195 Jr.	FS Dakarai Pearson	5-10 180 So.
or Kenny Hayter	5-11 215 Jr.	Phillip Geiggar	5-11 205 So.
RB Matt Trissel	6-0 235 Jr.	SS Lee Jackson	6-3 205 Sr.
Chad Stevens	6-4 245 Jr.	Ahmad Brooks	5-8 180 Sr.
SE Roy Williams	6-5 210 So.	CB Roderick Babers	5-10 183 Jr.
Sloan Thomas	6-2 195 So.	Nathan Vasher	5-11 170 So.
PK Matt McFadden	5-11 180 Fr.	P Brian Bradford	6-2 215 Jr.

Players with starting experience in bold

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS

Prior to last season, Kliff Kingsbury was a sophomore quarterback trying to make a name for himself.

His introduction didn't take long.

All he did was catapult to the top of the Red Raider record book in nearly every passing category in existence and lead the Red Raiders to a 7-6 record and berth in the galleryfurniture.com Bowl. His 3,418 yards, 21 touchdown strikes and 284.8 yards per game led the Big 12.

With a full season in Coach Mike Leach's pass-happy offense under his belt, those numbers should vastly improve in 2001, which is a scary thought for defensive backs everywhere.

"We have a lot of weapons," Kingsbury said. "We're also more comfortable in the offense. We're seeing it the second time through, and I'm seeing little things I didn't see earlier."

Although Tim Baker and Derek Dorris, who together hauled in 125 of Kingsbury's 362 completions, must be replaced, plenty of capable hands are primed to pluck the pigskin from the air in 2001.

Two of the most talked-about hands in Lubbock belong to junior college transfer Anton Paige, who collected 1,237 yards and 18 touchdowns on 64 catches a season ago at Northwest Mississippi Community College. At 6-foot-5, Paige is an enormous target who will cause nightmares for smaller cornerbacks. He also moves extremely well for a player his size, and he is looking forward to a big season after arriving at Tech in time to participate in spring drills.

"I'm just having a fun time," Paige said. "It's exciting. The tempo is up there."

The likely starter opposite Paige on the outside is speedy sophomore Carlos Francis. Another player to keep an eye on is sophomore Mickey Peters, a skilled inside receiver who will be relied upon to force defensive backs to cover the middle of the field so that Paige will have an opportu-

nity to roam freely on the outside.

The leading returning receiver is tailback Ricky Williams, the embodiment of perseverance after fighting back from a debilitating knee injury that decimated his 1999 season to lead all Big 12 running backs with 52 receptions. With the running game taking a back seat in the pass-focused offense, Williams was extremely effective as a receiver coming out of the backfield and will look to reprise that role in his final campaign.

Williams did finish the year as the team's leading ground gainer with 421 yards, and with his motivated performance during spring workouts, the fifth-year senior proved that he still has the game-breaking ability that he possessed prior to his injury.

"I feel a whole lot better," Williams said. "My performance this spring has been a whole lot better than it has been. My coaches can tell, and my knee is doing really good. I'm glad I came back. I wanted to leave this campus on a good note instead of a bad note."

Complementing the perimeter-oriented style of Williams is sophomore Foy Munlin, a powerful runner who gives Tech coaches an inside option in short-yardage or goal-line situations.

Although Tech's backfield depth took a hit with the transfer of Shaud Williams, the Big 12 Offensive Newcomer of the Year as a freshman in 1999, help is on the way in the form of junior college transfer Loliki Bongo-

Wanga. In addition, sophomore H-back Wes Welker, who burst onto the scene by returning two punts for touchdowns a year ago, should see his role in the offense expand.

Last season, the offensive line was a relatively inexperienced unit that was forced to adapt to new pass protection schemes. The reviews were mostly favorable, although there is room for improvement as evidenced by the 30 sacks allowed. Two players who should ensure a reduction in that number are tackles Rex Richards and Paul Erickson

Red Raider Sports



Kliff Kingsbury rewrote the Tech passing records as a sophomore, throwing for 3,418 yards and 21 touchdowns. He completed 61.8 percent.



MOLLY

The Littlest Cornhusker

(continued from front)

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Sculpted by award-winning doll artist Susan Wakeen, Nebraska's® "biggest" booster is adorably lifelike. Molly's head, lower arms and legs are meticulously crafted of fine porcelain and her features are artfully painted by hand, from her delicate lashes to the rosy blush warming her cheeks.

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(continued on back)



and center Toby Cecil, the standouts of what is arguably one of the most technically sound group in the Big 12. Unfortunately, all three players missed spring practice with injuries but will be ready to go by the time fall workouts commence.

When the Red Raiders do begin fall practice, they will face the prospect of adding seven new starters to a defense that led the nation with three shutout wins in 2000.

A promising fact is that one of the four returning starters is junior linebacker Lawrence Flugence, who emerged from virtual obscurity last season to become the Big 12's leading tackler with 156 stops. He will start in the middle along with Rusty Bucy and Jonathan Hawkins, who was granted a sixth season of eligibility after breaking his ankle in Tech's second game a year ago.



Senior tailback Ricky Williams, who led Tech in rushing with 421 yards, caught 52 passes for 228 yards.

This season's projected starters at defensive tackle, juniors Lamont Anderson and Robert Wyatt, both spent the spring recovering from injuries. A broken leg caused Anderson to miss nine games last season although his recovery enabled him to participate in non-contact drills during the spring. Wyatt has had two surgeries on his knee since the end of last season, which forced sophomore Beau Radney's move from the offensive line to provide depth. Manning the end spots will be juniors Aaron Hunt and Josh Ratliff, both of whom are excellent pass-rushers.

In the secondary, only senior safety Kevin Curtis is back from a foursome that led the Big 12 in pass defense a season ago. Curtis led all Big 12 defensive backs with 121 tackles, and will be counted upon to provide similar numbers as the most experienced member of the secondary.

The competition at free safety is between senior Paul McClendon and sophomore Byron Johnson, with Johnson holding a slight edge after impressing Tech coaches during the spring.

"He moved up to our first team because we thought he did a good job of tackling and making plays," said Dave Brown, Texas Tech defensive backs coach.

Although the new starters at cornerback, senior Ronald Ross and sophomore Eric Cooper, won jobs during the spring, they will have to ward of several challengers this fall. Senior C.J. Johnson and junior college transfer Ricky Sailor will both get looks as the Red Raiders creep closer to their Sept. 8 opener against New Mexico.

Another major hole that must be filled is at kicker, where four players are vying to replace the departed Chris Birkholz. The frontrunner is sophomore Wich Brenner, although he missed the entire spring due to injury.

Leach and the Red Raiders hope that whoever ends up as the kicker, his primary role will be to boot extra points. With an offense that makes the scoreboard smolder, that will likely be the case. ■ — *By Shawn Heilbron*



AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

3rd

SOUTH DIVISION

STRENGTHS

Tech's receivers are the keys to the offense, and it is no surprise that the Red Raiders are loaded at that position. **Anton Paige** and **Carlos Francis** lead a group that is extremely deep and very talented.

QUESTION MARKS

Who will step up on the defensive line to replace standouts **Kris Kocurek** and **Devin Lemons**, who combined for 164 tackles and seven sacks last season? If **Richard Wyatt** can recover from knee surgery, he could be an impact player. Until the fall, that remains a big "if."

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

Only a junior, **Kliff Kingsbury** has the physical and mental tools to become one of the top quarterbacks in the country. Kingsbury spent most of last season in a learning mode and is poised for a monster year in 2001.

FAST STARTER

Lawrence Flugence led the Red Raiders and the Big 12 with 156 total tackles in 12 games as a sophomore. He recorded 10 tackles for loss and four sacks in his first season starting on defense.

SECONDARY LEADER

Former Seattle Seahawk assistant coach **Dave Brown** was named as Texas Tech secondary coach. Brown replaced **Brian Norwood**, who left the school to accept a similar position with Penn State.

Brown, who played professionally for 16 seasons, began his coaching career with the Seattle Seahawks in 1992 and coached there until 1998. During his final four years with the team, Brown served as defensive backs coach under current Texas Tech defensive coordinator **Greg McMackin**.

2000 RECORD: 7-6

CONFERENCE FINISH: 3-5

A 26	New Mexico#	W, 24-3
S 2	Utah State	W, 38-16
S 9	North Texas	W, 13-7
S 16	La-Lafayette	W, 26-0
S 30	@ Texas A&M	L, 33-15
O 7	Baylor	W, 28-0
O 14	Nebraska	L, 56-3
O 21	@ Kansas St.	L, 28-23
O 28	@ Kansas	W, 45-39
N 4	Texas	L, 29-17
N 11	Oklahoma St.	W, 58-0
N 18	@ Oklahoma	L, 27-13
D 27	East Carolina&	L, 40-27

#Hispanic College Fund Football Classic
&GalleryFurniture.com Bowl, Houston

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

X	Anton Paige	6-5	218	Jr.	DE	Aaron Hunt	6-3	240	Jr.
	Nehemiah Glover	5-8	170	Fr.		Rashon Rasberry	6-3	265	Sr.
Y	Mickey Peters	6-3	203	So.	DT	Lamont Anderson	6-1	299	Jr.
	Cole Roberts	6-6	245	Sr.		Jeremy Milam	6-2	272	Jr.
LT	Paul Erickson	6-5	284	Jr.	DT	Robert Wyatt	6-1	294	Jr.
	Casey Keck	6-3	290	So.		Josh Page	6-2	288	Jr.
LG	Matt Heider	6-5	305	Sr.	DE	Josh Ratliff	6-3	248	Jr.
	J.J. Williams	6-6	301	Jr.		Adell Duckett	6-4	232	Fr.
C	Toby Cecil	6-4	295	So.	SLB	Rusty Bucy	6-1	235	Jr.
	Dylan Gandy	6-4	290	Fr.		Preston Hatfield	6-0	209	Jr.
RG	Rex Richards	6-4	299	Jr.	MLB	Lawrence Flugence	6-1	240	Jr.
	Lance Williams	6-2	309	Sr.		Toby Shain	5-11	235	Jr.
RT	Jason May	6-4	300	Jr.	BLB	Jonathan Hawkins	5-11	235	Sr.
	Jon Rodriguez	6-5	305	Fr.		Jason Wesley	5-11	209	So.
Z	Darrell Jones	6-3	201	Sr.	CB	C.J. Johnson	5-10	185	Sr.
	Carlos Francis	5-9	191	So.		Damian Chandler	6-0	178	Fr.
QB	Kliff Kingsbury	6-4	205	Jr.	SS	Kevin Curtis	6-3	223	Sr.
	B.J. Symons	6-2	207	So.		Ryan Aycock	6-0	206	So.
F	Ricky Williams	5-9	190	Sr.	FS	Paul McClendon	5-10	188	Sr.
	Foy Muntin	6-0	210	So.		B.J. Johnson	6-0	190	So.
H	King Scovell	5-11	188	Sr.	CB	Eric Cooper	5-11	198	So.
	Wes Welker	5-9	185	So.		Peter Abriag	5-10	172	Jr.
PK	Clayton Knellinger	5-9	170	Jr.	P	Clayton Knellinger	5-9	170	Jr.

Players with starting experience in bold

TEXAS A&M AGGIES

Throughout the 1990s, Texas A&M became one of the most successful teams in the nation — in winning percentage, overall victories and bowl appearances — largely without a consistent passing game. If polled, most A&M fans would tell you that is what prevented the Aggies from winning the biggest of the big games and truly ascending among the nation's elite.

A&M fans would have given just about anything during the past decade for a steady, strong-armed quarterback.

Maybe now, after all these years, the Aggies have found the answer in 26-year-old junior Mark Farris, who in his first season as a starter became the most prolific single-season passer in school history with 2,551 yards. The former minor league baseball player also finished No. 2 in A&M history in season completions, attempts and completion percentage.

But here's the painful irony for A&M: The Aggies may have found the answer at quarterback, but they have lost the playmakers at the traditionally strong positions.

A&M's bread and butter has long been stars at running back and outside linebacker. Check the 2001 roster. There doesn't appear to be anybody who meets the "star" description at those positions.

Solid and promising players, sure. But stars? Real difference-makers?

Probably not. In fact, that seems to be a problem throughout the team. The Aggies lost their top three playmakers from a year ago — wide receiver Robert Ferguson, fullback Ja'Mar Toombs and outside linebacker Jason Glenn. While there are few glaring weaknesses on the roster, there are also very few all-star candidates to complement Farris.

"We're not a team that's going to dazzle anybody with our talent level," A&M Coach R.C. Slocum said. "But I do think there's enough talent there if we can keep guys healthy. If we get everybody hitting on the same cylinder and have a little luck in keeping guys healthy, then we can

have a pretty good team. Anything short of that, and we're not going to be a real good team."

They didn't finish last year like a real good team. After losing a heartbreaker at home against No. 1 Oklahoma (35-31), A&M closed the season by being blown out by Texas and blowing a big lead against Mississippi State in the Independence Bowl.

As a result, A&M ended last season by losing three straight games for the first time since 1970. With a 7-5 record, the Aggies also finished outside the AP Top 25 for just the second time in Slocum's tenure as head coach.

Still, the Aggies believe — or have convinced themselves — that 2001 will be dramatically better. They point to Oklahoma as proof that it can be turned around immediately.

After all, the last Big 12 team that finished 7-5 with a two-point loss in the Independence Bowl was Oklahoma in 1999. The Sooners won the national championship the following season.

A&M isn't guaranteeing it will duplicate OU's remarkable feat. But it's a source of motivation.

"Who's to say we can't be the next (Oklahoma)?" A&M junior inside linebacker Brian Gamble asked. "They just decided they were in it for the long haul, they knew they could take it all the way. They knew they had the talent, they believed in the

coaches, they believed in their system.

"There was a lot of luck along the way. But college football is a crazy game. Anything can happen. We have to start preparing that way, preparing for anything that happens down the road. If luck comes our way, then we could be that next team to win the national championship."

Perhaps, but the schedule suggests it could be just another long season. During a five-week stretch beginning in mid-October, the Aggies play at Colorado, at Kansas State, at Texas Tech and at Oklahoma. Since 1995, A&M is a combined

Texas A&M Sports Information



All-America candidate Seth McKinney anchors the offensive line, where three starters return.

2-6 at those road destinations.

Most importantly, the Aggies must develop some play-makers, especially at wide receiver. Last year, Ferguson, who led the Big 12 in receiving, and Toombs, who led the Aggies with 14 touchdowns, were the mainstays of the A&M attack. In fact, the duo combined to score 63 percent of A&M's touchdowns last year.

"We'd love to have those guys back, but that's not the case," said Farris. "So, we need some of the younger, less experienced guys to step forward. We'll have to spread the ball around to different receivers instead of relying so much on a guy like Ferguson, but if guys like Bethel Johnson, Mickey Jones and Dwain Goynes step up, it can make us even more balanced and dangerous."

The most intriguing receiver is Goynes, a terrific athlete



Texas A&M Sports Information

Mark Farris passed for a school-record 2,551 yards in his first season as a starter.

with blazing speed. Until this past spring, however, Goynes had always been more of a sprinter than a football player. But his impressive work in the spring is possibly an indication that he could be emerging as a difference-maker the Aggies desperately need.

The Aggies also need bigger plays from their tailbacks. For a school that has produced breakaway threats such as Leeland McElroy, Rodney Thomas, Greg Hill and Darren Lewis, it's rather amazing that the last time an A&M tailback scored on a run of more than 30 yards was 1998.

Sophomore Richard Whitaker and redshirt freshman Keith Joseph have the potential to make big plays at tailback, but they have yet to do it on game day.

The offensive line, anchored by All-American candidate Seth McKinney at center, returns three of five starters from a unit that was one of the surprises of last season, especially in its ability to protect Farris. It could be an even better unit this year. But are the tailbacks good enough to take advantage of it?

The other major concern for A&M involves a position that has usually been its No. 1 strength: linebacker. Gamble is very solid in the middle, but there aren't the typically dominant rush linebackers along side of him.

The good news for the A&M defense is that there are some potential stars virtually everywhere else. Junior defensive backs Sammy Davis at one corner and Terrence Kiel at strong safety are all-conference candidates, while sophomore cornerback Sean Weston is coming off a solid freshman season.

Up front, junior Ty Warren could be the most dominant defensive lineman the Aggies have seen since Sam Adams. Even with the loss of two starters from last year, the defensive front could be the strength of the team, especially if senior Rocky Bernard returns to top form after missing last year with a serious knee injury.

Still, this team seems to have more questions than an inquisitive 3-year-old. ■ — *By Rusty Burson*



AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

4th

SOUTH DIVISION

STRENGTHS

The Aggies' secondary is extremely solid, and the defensive line can hold its own with anybody in the Big 12. The offensive line, anchored by outstanding center **Seth McKinney**, is also solid.

QUESTION MARKS

The receivers and the outside linebackers are certainly the biggest question marks. A&M's defensive reputation was built around dominant rush outside linebackers, but there may not be one this year. And there is certainly not another **Robert Ferguson** about to emerge at wide receiver.

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

Perhaps the most proven one on the roster is quarterback **Mark Farris**, who has a steady hand to go along with his quick release and rifle arm. As most first-year quarterbacks do, Farris made some mistakes last year. But with a year's seasoning, he should be exceptional in 2001.

COACHING CHANGES

R.C. Slocum's staff will include three new faces — assistant head coach/wide receivers **Kevin Sumlin** from Purdue, offensive coordinator **Dino Babers** from Arizona and running backs coach **Ken Rucker** from Alabama. A&M assistant head coach **Larry Kirksey** moved on to the Detroit Lions as wide receivers coach. Former offensive coordinator **Steve Kragthorpe** will coach quarterbacks for the Buffalo Bills. Running backs coach **Pete Hoener** left the Aggies to become tight ends coach of the Arizona Cardinals.

"One of my main responsibilities is to make certain our players have quality coaching," Slocum said. "From the interest shown in these men, I think the level of respect for A&M's coaching staff is apparent."

2000 RECORD: 7-5 CONFERENCE FINISH: 5-3

S 2	@ Notre Dame	L, 24-10
S 9	Wyoming	W, 51-3
S 16	Texas-El Paso	W, 45-17
S 30	Texas Tech	W, 33-15
O 7	Colorado	L, 26-19
O 14	@ Baylor	W, 24-0
O 21	@ Iowa State	W, 30-7
O 28	Kansas State	W, 26-10
N 4	@ Oklahoma St.	W, 21-16
N 11	Oklahoma	L, 35-31
N 24	@ Texas	L, 43-17
D 31	Mississippi St. & Independence Bowl, Shreveport, La.	L, 43-41

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

WR	Bethel Johnson	5-11 188 Sr.	LE	Evan Perroni	6-5 265 Sr.
	Elison Collins	6-3 206 So.		Rocky Bernard	6-3 294 Sr.
RT	Andre Brooks	6-4 298 So.	NT	Ty Warren	6-4 300 Jr.
	Alan Reuber	6-6 289 So.		Marcus Jasmin	6-4 323 Fr.
RG	Taylor Whitley	6-4 305 Jr.	RE	Linnis Smith	6-4 250 So.
	Britt Lively	6-5 311 So.		Rocky Bernard	6-3 294 Sr.
C	Seth McKinney	6-3 290 Sr.	ROLB	Jarrod Penright	6-3 232 So.
	Geoff Hangartner	6-5 287 Fr.		Everett Smith	6-2 215 So.
LG	Billy Yates	6-1 292 Jr.	ILB	Jared Morris	6-3 240 So.
	John Kirk	6-4 282 So.	or	Harold Robertson	6-3 217 Sr.
LT	Michael Mahan	6-6 299 Jr.	ILB	Brian Gamble	6-2 227 Jr.
	Kasey Chesler	6-4 279 Fr.		Amon Simon	6-1 224 Sr.
TE	Michael de la Torre	6-5 244 Jr.	LOLB	Christian Rodriguez	6-2 235 Sr.
or	Lonnice Madison	6-3 236 Sr.	or	Jesse Hunnicutt	6-3 237 Jr.
WR	Dwain Goynes	5-10 179 Jr.	LCB	Sean Weston	5-9 163 So.
	Mickey Jones	5-9 178 Sr.		Adam Black	5-10 173 So.
QB	Mark Farris	6-2 206 Jr.	RCB	Sammy Davis	6-0 180 Jr.
	Vance Smith	6-4 226 Jr.		Jonte Buhl	5-9 163 So.
FB	Joe Weber	6-0 233 Jr.	SS	Terrence Kiel	5-11 196 Jr.
	Stacy Jones	5-11 229 Jr.		Wes Bautovich	6-2 210 Sr.
TB	Richard Whitaker	5-10 197 So.	FS	Jay Brooks	5-9 190 Sr.
	Keith Joseph	6-2 221 Fr.		Dawon Gentry	5-11 189 So.
PK	Chris Sims	6-0 163 Fr.	P	Cody Scates	6-0 180 So.

Players with starting experience in bold

OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

Virtually every team has at least one per year. It's that defining moment, the big game that can make or break a season, producing either confidence throughout the roster or self-doubts.

For the Oklahoma State Cowboys, that game could be the opener at Southern Mississippi on Sept. 1 in Hattiesburg. The Golden Eagles have won three Conference USA titles in the last five years and made four straight bowl appearances — consistency the Cowboys long to achieve.

And, of course, it was Southern Miss which spoiled OSU's 2-0 start last year and began a seven-game losing streak that eventually cost Bob Simmons his job as head coach. Revenge would be sweet for the Cowboys, but it probably wouldn't be as important to OSU as the confidence a win over USM would produce.

The Cowboys, under the direction of first-year head coach Les Miles, need something to make them feel good about themselves. Or to put it more accurately, they desperately need a significant win.

"I like our talent," said Miles, who spent the last three seasons as an assistant coach with the Dallas Cowboys. "What will be interesting to see is where our confidence level is. If we could get off to a good start and gain some confidence, it could be a really fun year."

The last really fun year for the Cowboys was probably 1997, when Miles was serving as the OSU offensive coordinator. OSU went 8-4 that season and earned an Alamo Bowl bid. And under Miles' direction, the '97 Cowboys scored 332 points, the third-most in school history. In comparison, OSU scored just 202 points last year in a 3-8 season.

Since Miles left for Dallas, the OSU Cowboys have gone 5-6, 5-6 and 3-8. And aside from beating a bad Oklahoma team in 1998, perhaps the only significant win during the last three years was a victory over Mississippi State on

Sept. 19, 1998.

Quite simply, the Cowboys need another feel-good win. Beating teams like Baylor, Tulsa, Southwest Texas and Louisiana-Lafayette doesn't produce the confidence needed to get on a major roll. Beating Southern Miss, on the other hand, just might do it.

A victory over the Eagles could help the Cowboys start at 3-0 and have the inside track at earning their first bowl appearance since Miles left. And that's exactly Miles' goal

in his first season as head coach.

"For me to say, we'll definitely win so many games might be inappropriate right now," Miles says. "But I can tell you this: We'll improve, and we're planning on being some place warm around Christmas time."

Miles is certainly not devoid of talent. In fact, he has a pair of potential stars in linebacker Dwayne Levels and quarterback Aso Pogi.

Pogi produced some rather remarkable numbers last year as a freshman, especially considering the circumstances. Pogi broke the school's freshman passing record last year despite seeing limited action in the season's first four games. But in his first two starts, he passed for more than 600 yards, becoming the first OSU quarterback ever to pass for 300 or more yards in back-to-back games.

Pogi, also the Cowboys' third-leading rusher, finished the year with 1,550 passing yards and came within inches of leading OSU to upset victories over Texas A&M and

Oklahoma. As long as he stays healthy, the Cowboys should be dangerous, especially with Miles' innovative schemes back in place.

"I think we are fortunate to have a great quarterback," Miles said. "(Pogi) gives us a real building block, and I have been very impressed with what I have seen from him."

The Cowboys' attack would probably be much more impressive if tailback Reggie White had not chosen to forgo his senior season for the NFL draft. White wasn't even drafted, but his absence in the OSU lineup will be missed.

O-Stat Sports Report



Aso Pogi broke the OSU freshman passing record despite seeing limited action in the first four games. He passed for 300 or more yards in back-to-back games.

Still, the OSU running attack should be solid behind one of the best offensive lines in the Big 12 and with the return of sophomore tailback Tatum Bell. Last year, Bell rushed for only 251 yards, but he averaged 5.1 yards per carry and electrified Lewis Field with a 60-yard touchdown run against Oklahoma.

"We think we'll have a quality tailback," Miles says. "Tatum Bell is probably the early leader with his great speed and elusiveness. But there are a number of guys, such as D.D. Cox, back there that have some ability to give us some quality snaps at tailback. We're not necessarily ready to say that we have exactly what we need at tailback, but we think we'll be fine."

Perhaps the biggest key to the OSU offense is at wide



O-Stat Sports Report

Sophomore Tatum Bell, the heir apparent to Reggie White, averaged 5.1 yards per carry and had a 60-yard touchdown run against Oklahoma.

receiver. A year ago, Oklahoma State did not have a player ranked among the top 12 receivers in the Big 12. But that could be different this year.

OSU returns its top four wideouts from last year (Rashaun Woods, Willie Young, Gabe Lindsay and Terrance Davis-Bryant), and all have shown some big-play potential. But that foursome will be made even better by the arrival of big-play target John Lewis from Hinds (Miss.) Junior College. "We'll spread the ball around enough to make them all happy," Miles said of his receivers.

Of course, the biggest concern on the team is on the other side of the football, where Cowboys finished last in the Big 12 and

105th nationally in pass defense.

Elbert Craig is a promising young defensive back, who registered 78 tackles last season. But the biggest help in the secondary could come from newcomers. Transfers Kobina Amoo and Chris Cole should start and immediately improve the play at cornerback.

In the middle of the defense, Levels is a menacing, one-man tackling machine in the middle. Using his great speed and instincts, Levels led the Cowboys with 95 tackles in 2000. His return gives the Cowboys a centerpiece to build around on defense.

One of the major reasons OSU has hopes for a dramatically improved defense, however, has little to do with personnel and more to do with the arrival of new coordinator Bill Clay. After all, he's done it at more obscure places than Oklahoma State.

Last year, for example, Clay's Alabama-Birmingham defense finished 11th among Division I programs in total defense. The Blazers were ninth in scoring defense and sixth in rushing defense.

And, of course, the return of Miles gives the Cowboys more reasons than ever to be optimistic. Perhaps as he did as offensive coordinator at OSU, Miles can once again prove that "Les" is more. ■ — *By Rusty Burson*



AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

STRENGTHS

With **Les Miles** running the show and **Aso Pogi** back under center, Oklahoma State should be much, much better on offense. **Tatum Bell** is also an impressive young running back who could make a big impact. In the Orange-White spring scrimmage, Pogi finished 26-for-39 for 285 yards, and Bell had 14 rushes for 110 yards, including a 30-yard touchdown score.

As usual, the OSU linebackers also look strong.

QUESTION MARKS

The secondary was terrible last year and must improve. Losing **Juqua Thomas**, **Zac Warner** and **Zac Akin** also takes a huge bite out of the OSU defensive front. The overall kicking game is also a concern.

DIFFERENCE-MAKERS

Offensively, it's Pogi, who proved last year that he is indeed the real deal. And he could be even better this year because of the progress of his returning receivers and the arrival of junior college receiver **John Lewis**. Defensively, **Dwayne Levels** could be one of the Big 12's best linebackers.

HE'S BACK

Mike Gundy, former OSU player and assistant coach, has returned to the Cowboy staff as assistant head coach and offensive coordinator. Gundy, who established career passing records as OSU's quarterback in the late 1980s and served on the staffs of two former OSU coaches, returns to Stillwater after coaching stints at Baylor and Maryland.

As the starting quarterback from 1986 through 1989, Gundy helped guide the Cowboys to back-to-back 10-win seasons and bowl appearances in 1987 and 1988.

5th
SOUTH
DIVISION

2000 RECORD: 3-8 CONFERENCE FINISH: 1-7

S 9	@ Tulsa	W, 36-26
S 16	SW Texas St.	W, 23-0
S 23	So. Mississippi	L, 26-8
S 30	@ Texas	L, 42-7
O 7	@ Missouri	L, 24-10
O 14	Iowa State	L, 33-26
O 28	@ Colorado	L, 37-21
N 4	Texas A&M	L, 21-16
N 11	@ Texas Tech	L, 58-0
N 18	Baylor	W, 50-22
N 25	Oklahoma	L, 12-7

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

WR Willie Young	6-1 210 So.	LE Jake Riffe	6-3 235 Jr.
Gabe Lindsay	5-8 180 Jr.	Kyle Beck	6-2 240 Jr.
LT Kyle Eaton	6-8 305 Jr.	LT LaWaylon Brown	6-5 290 So.
Jon Hayhurst	6-3 295 So.	Chris Tyler	6-2 290 Sr.
LG Jeff Machado	6-3 300 Sr.	RT Kevin Williams	6-5 275 Jr.
Dustin Vanderhoof	6-3 300 Jr.	Clay Coe	6-1 260 Fr.
C Jon Vandrell	6-0 285 Sr.	RE Greg Richmond	6-2 230 So.
D.J. Grissom	6-3 345 Sr.	Thomas Glapion	6-6 260 So.
RG Bryan Phillips	6-4 335 Sr.	SLB Torrence Robinson	6-0 215 Jr.
Jason Johnson	6-2 305 Sr.	Fath' Carter	6-2 210 So.
RT Jason Russell	6-5 310 Jr.	MLB Dwayne Levels	6-2 250 Sr.
Sam Mayes	6-5 325 Fr.	Ron Able	6-0 240 Sr.
TE Mark Milosevich	6-5 240 Fr.	LCB Michael Cooper	5-9 195 Sr.
Tarrick McGuire	6-3 255 Sr.	Chris Cole	5-9 180 So.
WR Rashaun Woods	6-2 185 Fr.	SS Chris Massey	6-0 205 Jr.
Terrance D. Bryant	5-9 185 Jr.	Marcus Jones	5-8 195 Sr.
QB Aso Pogi	6-3 225 So.	S Elbert Craig	6-1 210 So.
Andre McGill	6-0 180 Fr.	Paul Jones	6-1 200 Jr.
TB Tatum Bell	5-11 190 So.	WS Roger Bombach	5-11 190 Sr.
D.D. Cox	5-10 200 Fr.	Robbie Gillem	5-11 210 Sr.
FB Mike Denard	5-11 240 Jr.	RCB Ricklan Holmes	5-11 195 Jr.
Tim Burrough	6-3 250 So.	Kobina Amoo	5-10 180 Jr.
PK Luke Phillips	6-0 160 So.	P Scott Elder	6-1 190 Sr.

Players with starting experience in bold

BAYLOR BEARS

The road to respectability in the Big 12 has proven to be a long stretch of rocky terrain for the Baylor Bears. The last time Baylor won a conference game, Titanic was in the midst of breaking box office records and Jerry Springer was breaking the rules for television talk shows.

Since a 31-24 victory over Kansas on Oct. 10, 1998, the Bears have played 21 straight conference games without recording a victory. Although a daunting Big 12 schedule looms ominously on the horizon for third-year coach Kevin Steele, he remains positive about the direction of the Baylor program despite his two-year record of 3-19.

"I'm looking forward to a season of excitement," Steele said. "We've got 13 seniors and 14 juniors and the rest are freshmen and sophomores. They are young, but they're young with experience."

That experience includes a 2000 campaign that began with a 2-1 record and a glimmer of hope before embarking upon a demoralizing eight-game losing streak to end the season.

Victories over North Texas and South Florida were sandwiched around a loss to Minnesota, which proved to be painful in more ways than one. A blindside hit left Baylor quarterback Greg Cicero with a broken left collarbone that cost the Anaheim, Calif., native the remainder of his season and forced Steele to shuffle four different signal-callers into the offensive mix. Cicero's loss was a devastating blow to a young Baylor team that desperately needed his leadership on the field, as well as his accurate right arm.

"Greg understands the x's and o's very well," Steele said. "What he brings is the knowledge of the game and the way he approaches it, his accuracy in throwing the football and the confidence that the team has in him."

Helping to ensure Cicero's health this fall will be a restructured offensive line that has been bolstered by the addition of gargantuan junior college transfers Matt Bickel,

Charles Bungert and Antoine Murphy, the smallest of the trio at 6-4 and 325 pounds. Those three will join senior standouts Joe Jackson, Greg Jerman and Jon Erickson to form a solid unit that should keep Cicero upright and open holes for a running game that averaged just 72.9 yards per game in 2000.

Despite the loss of leading runner Darrell Bush, Steele is confident that a new star will emerge from among the trio of senior Melvin Barnett, junior Chedrick Ricks and sopho-

more Jonathan Golden. If bruiser Derek Lagway, who missed all of last season following a spring motorcycle injury, can return to 1999 form, Baylor could finally achieve some type of balanced offense that can sustain drives and put points on the board.

Points were in short supply for the Bears a season ago as evidenced by a horrific five-game skid in which the Bears were outscored 205-21. One source of electricity Baylor is counting on to power its offense in 2001 is junior receiver Reggie Newhouse. A playmaker with magnetic hands, Newhouse became the first Baylor receiver in 17 years to snag at least 40 passes and should flourish with Cicero back in the fold.

Baylor's steadily improving fleet of receivers also includes possession target Lanny O'Steen and Robert Quiroga, who spent his spring competing with the

track team after hauling in three scoring passes as a true freshman. Redshirt freshmen John Martin and Marques Roberts will also contribute, with Roberts having the best shot to crack the starting lineup this fall.

While Baylor needs to figure out ways to get the ball into the end zone, it must still answer the question of how to keep opponents out of it.

The Bears finished dead last in total defense a year ago, allowing opponents to ring up 441.4 yards and just more than 36 points per game. In order to improve upon those

Baylor Sports Information



Senior free safety Samir Al-Samin (16) was the Bears' fourth-leading tackler with 68 total stops and tied for the team lead with two interceptions. He has started 17 games.

numbers, Baylor will need to overcome inexperience and an overall lack of quality depth on the defensive side of the ball.

In the secondary, the Bears will welcome back one of the Big 12's biggest hitters but must replace both starting cornerbacks, including Gary Baxter, a second-round draft pick of the Baltimore Ravens. Junior Randy Davis and sophomores Bobby Hart and Eric Giddens are the leading candidates to start at corner. The leader of the defensive backfield is senior free safety Samir Al-Amin, who brings stability and a presence that will make receivers think twice before running routes across the middle of the field. Competing for the starting spot at strong safety are senior Kyle Staudt and sophomore Derrick Cash.

The youth movement is also evident at linebacker, where three sophomores are expected to start this fall, including John Garrett, a 6-1, 235-pounder who dominated during the spring at the middle linebacker position. He will be flanked by Anthony Simmons, who was third on the team with 71 stops a season ago, and Stephen Sepulveda. The Bears will also look for contributions from among the trio of junior college transfer Greg Wade and redshirt freshmen Michael Tolbert and Greg Wallace.

Up front, the Bears are stocked with undersized defensive linemen who managed just nine total sacks and surrendered a conference-worst 209 rushing yards per game a year ago. Adding to the cause

will be three junior college transfers, A.C. Collier, Jason Geter and Shaun Jackson. All three are expected to step in this fall and compete for starting spots.

The top returnee is junior Kevin Stevenson, a pass-rushing specialist who led Baylor with 11 quarterback hurries last season.

"Kevin is playing now like a Big 12 player," Steele said. "Plus, we've got help coming in this fall. I think we're going to see real improvement in our defensive line."

Steele also hopes to see improvement in his special teams. Eric Hart showed great potential returning punts as a true freshman last season, but other players with big-play potential must emerge with the loss of speedsters Elijah Burkins and Martin Dossett. The kicking game is in good hands with senior Adam Stiles, who launched a Big 12-record 81 punts for an average of 40.1 yards per kick while also handling most kicking chores. Baylor only attempted nine field goals, yet another gauge of how little offense the team was able to generate.

With an offense in search of an identity and a defense in desperate need of playmakers, all indications are that 2001 will mark yet another stop on the long journey to rebuilding the Baylor program. Although a few small steps will be made in the right direction, it will take enormous strides for Baylor to win more than one game in the ultra-competitive Big 12. ■ — *By Shawn Heilbron*



Baylor Sports Information

Senior lineman Jon Erickson, a former walk-on, started every game and saw action at four different positions.



AT A GLANCE

PROJECTED 2001 FINISH:

6th
SOUTH DIVISION

STRENGTHS

With an infusion of junior college talent being added to the mix, Baylor's retooled offensive line should be able to protect Cicero and help the running game. The receiver position, led by **Reggie Newhouse**, could also produce some excitement.

QUESTION MARKS

The jury is out on the Baylor defensive line, where three junior college transfers are expected to make an immediate impact. Until the trio arrives in Waco this fall, however, the Bears must go with what they've got, which at this point isn't a whole lot.

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

If he can avoid the injury bug that has hampered him throughout his college career, **Greg Cicero** could develop into one of the Big 12's top quarterbacks. He possesses all the tools needed to excel at the position: a good head on his shoulders, a strong arm and the ability to lead his team.

LITTLE OFFENSE

Melvin Barnett's 4-yard first quarter run accounted for the game's only score as the Gold beat the Green 7-0 in Baylor's annual spring game. The win was secured after **Samir Al-Amin** stopped Green tailback **Jonathan Golden** short of the goal line on fourth-and-goal from the 1 with under a minute to play. The Gold team won despite accumulating just 153 yards on offense and turning the ball over three times.

FACILITIES UPDATED

Work is underway on renovations to the team locker rooms and weight room area at Floyd Casey Stadium. An addition is being made to the North End Zone complex to house the expansion.

2000 RECORD: 2-9 CONFERENCE FINISH: 0-8

A 31	@ North Texas	W, 20-7
S 16	Minnesota	L, 34-9
S 23	South Florida	W, 28-13
S 30	Iowa State	L, 31-17
O 7	@ Texas Tech	L, 28-0
O 14	Texas A&M	L, 24-0
O 21	@ Nebraska	L, 59-0
O 28	@ Texas	L, 48-14
N 4	Oklahoma	L, 56-7
N 11	Missouri	L, 47-22
N 18	@ Oklahoma St.	L, 50-25

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

SE	Reggie Newhouse 6-1 197 Jr.	LE	Charles Mann 6-4 252 Jr.
	Lanny O'Steen 5-11 187 Jr.		Khari Long 6-5 240 Fr.
LT	Jon Erickson 6-5 299 Sr.	NT	Travis Hicks 6-3 303 Jr.
	Ryan McDaniell 6-5 288 Fr.		Ethien Kelley 6-2 321 Jr.
LG	Cedrick Fields 6-2 295 So.	DT	Kevin Stevenson 6-2 274 Jr.
	Chris Sipes 6-4 306 Fr.		Luke Groh 6-5 254 Fr.
C	Joe Jackson 6-3 277 Sr.	RE	Aaron Lard 6-1 266 So.
	Cedrick Fields 6-2 295 So.		Joe Simmons 6-4 232 So.
RG	Derek Long 6-6 296 So.	SLB	Stephen Sepulveda 6-2 217 So.
	Derrick Percy 6-3 320 Jr.		Kelvin Chaisson 6-1 243 Jr.
RT	Greg Jerman 6-5 292 Sr.	MLB	John Garrett 6-1 235 So.
	David Armstrong 6-5 283 Sr.		Michael Tolbert 6-0 238 Fr.
TE	Andrew Obriotti 6-3 238 Sr.	WLB	Anth. Simmons 5-11 201 So.
	Anthony Dozier 6-5 261 Sr.		Jack Wallace 6-3 205 Fr.
QB	Greg Cicero 6-4 213 Jr.	LCB	Randy Davis 5-9 173 Jr.
	Josh Zachry 6-3 183 So.		Eric Giddens 5-11 189 Sr.
TB	Chedrick Ricks 5-8 200 Jr.	SS	Kyle Staudt 6-3 212 Sr.
	Jonathan Golden 6-0 208 So.		Derrick Cash 5-11 206 So.
FB	Melvin Barnett 6-0 243 Sr.	FS	Samir Al-Amin 6-1 219 Sr.
	Jonathan Evans 6-1 250 Fr.		Matt Amendola 5-11 187 Fr.
FL	Marques Roberts 6-1 218 Fr.	RCB	Bobby Hart 5-11 183 So.
	Bobby Darnell 5-11 188 Jr.		Matt Johnson 5-8 182 So.
PK	Daniel Andino 6-0 230 Jr.	P	Adam Stiles 6-5 236 Sr.

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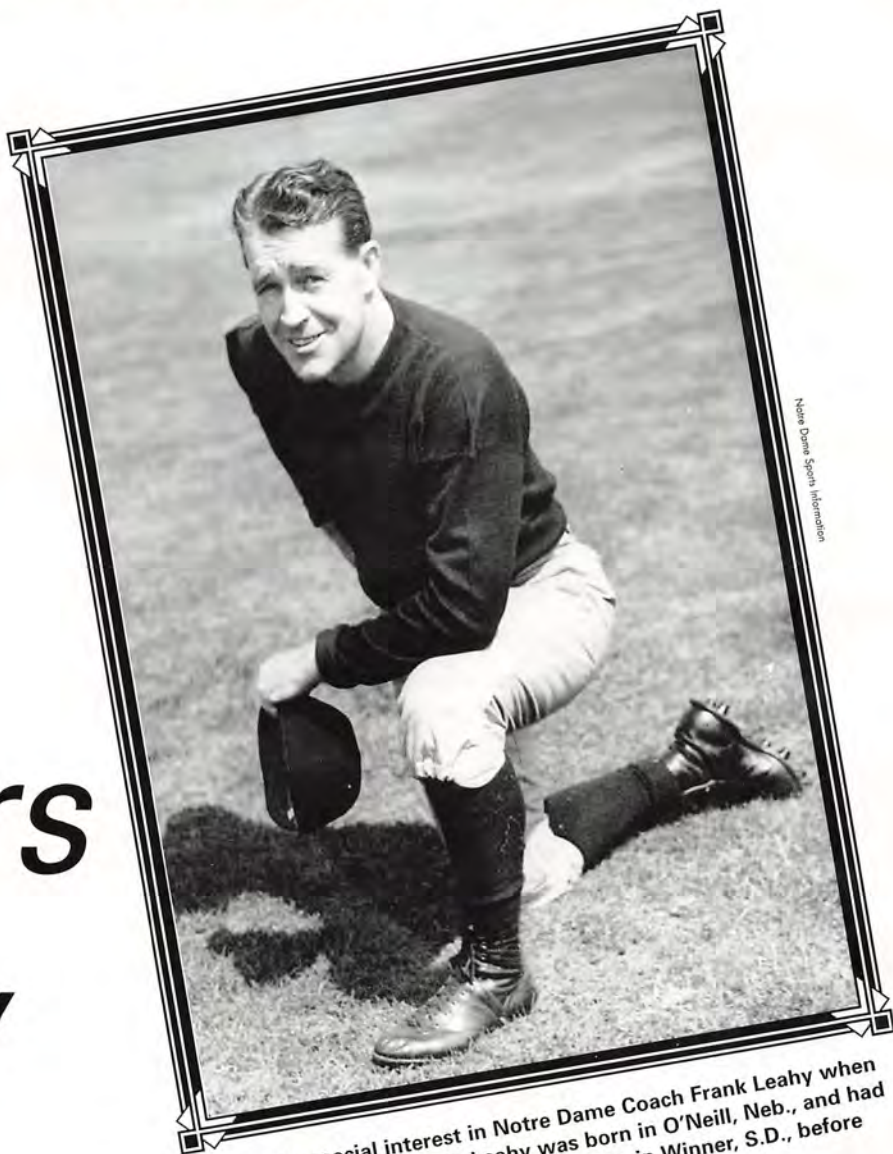
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NONCONFERENCE OPPONENTS

Irish Didn't Take Huskers Lightly

***Powerful Notre Dame
took every opponent
seriously during
Leahy's regime***

By Mike Babcock



Notre Dame Sports Information

There was special interest in Notre Dame Coach Frank Leahy when the Irish visited Nebraska. Leahy was born in O'Neill, Neb., and had attended high school in Omaha as well as in Winner, S.D., before enrolling at Notre Dame in 1927.

H

ope springs eternal, which is why Neal Mehring, an assistant football coach at Nebraska, assured boosters at a Monday luncheon that Notre Dame could be beaten.

"Some team may do it this



Here is the cover of the official program for the Oct. 16, 1948, game between Notre Dame and Nebraska at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln.

fall," said Mehring, who had scouted the Fighting Irish. And, he added, Nebraska could be that team, if Notre Dame took the Cornhuskers lightly.

The thing was, Notre Dame, the defending national champion, wasn't going to take Nebraska lightly. It never took any opponent lightly during Frank Leahy's

tenure as head coach.

Leahy was as cautious as former Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne. In the spring of 1949, for example, Leahy predicted, "We'll have the worst team Notre Dame has ever had."

The Irish were 10-0 in 1949, and national champions for a third time in four seasons.

Mehring, however, was talking

about the 1948 team, the one that didn't win a national title during those four seasons. The Irish didn't lose in 1948, but a one-point victory at home against Purdue to open the season and a tie at Southern California to finish enabled 10-0 Michigan to claim the crown.

Still, Mehring maintained the Cornhuskers could upset Leahy's second-ranked team, providing they had learned their lesson at

Colorado the previous Saturday. Nebraska had gone to Boulder favored to win against the conference's newest member yet had suffered an embarrassing 19-6 loss.

Some suggested the Cornhuskers had been overconfident. Coach Potsy Clark claimed not.

Reason was on Clark's side. Even though Nebraska had opened with a 19-15 victory against Iowa State, it had followed with what was an annual loss to Minnesota, 39-13 at Minneapolis. And the fact that Clark was in his second one-year stint as Nebraska's coach underscored a significant problem.

Cornhuskers had not produced a winning season since 1940, when Coach Lawrence "Biff" Jones had directed them to eight victories and had taken them to the 1941 Rose Bowl game.

Since Jones had been recalled into the Army — with the rank of colonel — following a 4-5 1941 sea-

Nebraska vs. Notre Dame

Series tied, 7-7-1

- 1915** — Nebraska 20, Notre Dame 19 (Lincoln)
- 1916** — Notre Dame 20, Nebraska 0 (Lincoln)
- 1917** — Nebraska 7, Notre Dame 0 (Lincoln)
- 1918** — Nebraska 0, Notre Dame 0 (Lincoln)
- 1919** — Notre Dame 14, Nebraska 9 (Lincoln)
- 1920** — Notre Dame 16, Nebraska 7 (Lincoln)
- 1921** — Notre Dame 7, Nebraska 0 (South Bend)
- 1922** — Nebraska 14, Notre Dame 6 (Lincoln)
- 1923** — Nebraska 14, Notre Dame 7 (Lincoln)
- 1924** — Notre Dame 34, Nebraska 6 (South Bend)
- 1925** — Nebraska 17, Notre Dame 0 (Lincoln)
- 1947** — Notre Dame 31, Nebraska 0 (South Bend)
- 1948** — Notre Dame 44, Nebraska 13 (Lincoln)
- 1973** — Nebraska 40, Notre Dame 6 (Orange Bowl)
- 2000** — Nebraska 27, Notre Dame 24, ot (South Bend)

son, Nebraska had endured six more losing records under five coaches. And Clark was two of them.

Former Cornhusker Glenn

Presnell succeeded Jones but after a 3-7 record in 1942, enlisted in the Navy. A.J. Lewandowski, who also served as head basketball coach, athletic director and athletic

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department business manager simultaneously during the war years, replaced Presnell.

After two seasons in which Nebraska was a combined 4-12, Lewandowski gave way to Clark, who got the job in 1945 after Jones declined to return. The law provided for military veterans to reclaim their jobs after they were discharged but when Nebraska notified Jones that he would be given a one-year contract as athletic director only, he replied with a terse "no thanks."

Even though his Cornhusker teams had a combined 28-14-4 record in five seasons, Jones' personality had alienated the Board of Regents, the Athletic Board and the university administration. The Army major who once refused Louisiana Gov. Huey Long admittance to his team's locker room while he was head coach at Louisiana State, did things his own way, and allowed no meddling.

Whether Jones resigned or was fired depended on one's perspective. In any case, the final split was hardly amicable, and many fans were unhappy with the Athletic Board. Enter Clark, who exited to teach salesmanship at a business college in Grand Rapids, Mich., following a 4-5 season.

Bernie Masterson, another former Cornhusker, was next in charge. He was hired as head football coach and athletic director at a generous annual salary of \$10,000. But after seasons of 3-6 and 2-7, boosters bought Masterson's contract, in another acrimonious separation.

Clark, whose head-coaching resume included 10 NFL seasons with Portsmouth, Detroit — champion in 1935 — and Brooklyn, was asked, and agreed, to return on an interim basis.

While Nebraska kept Jones from returning, Notre Dame welcomed Leahy back after missing the 1944 and 1945 seasons because of military service in the Navy. His affection for his alma mater was

well documented, and more importantly, his teams had been 24-3-3 from 1941 through 1943.

Leahy, who played tackle on Knute Rockne's final three teams, retired from coaching for health reasons after the 1953 season, with a record of 87-11-9 in 11 seasons in charge of the Fighting Irish. His Notre Dame teams won five national championships, four of them consensus.

Leahy's career-winning percentage, counting two seasons at Boston College, of .864 ranks second all-time among major college

football coaches, behind Rockne's .881.

From 1946, when Leahy returned from service, until the second game in 1950, Notre Dame played 39 consecutive games without defeat, a streak that included only two ties. The streak was 21 games, including 15 straight victories, when the Fighting Irish came to Lincoln in mid-October of 1948.


Notre Dame had last visited Memorial Stadium in 1925, but because of the poor treatment of Notre Dame's traveling party as well as Rockne's team — including

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Nebraska's Cletus Fischer (14) stiff-arms Notre Dame's Lawrence Coutre during an 18-yard run in the 1948 meeting in Lincoln. The Irish defeated the Huskers 44-13. Fischer was later a longtime Nebraska assistant coach.

"The arrival of the Notre Dame football team in Nebraska means that Lincoln will be one of the capitals of the gridiron world Saturday."

— **The Lincoln Star,**
October, 1948

overt anti-Catholic sentiment — an annual series between the schools dating to 1915 was summarily discontinued.

The Irish had won the first of a two-game series 31-0 at South Bend in 1947, and their return to Lincoln was a celebrated event, even though Nebraska's chances of winning were slim.

The Notre Dame team in 1948 was essentially the same as the one in 1947. The key losses were tackle and Outland Trophy winner George Conner and quarterback Johnny Lujack, whose successor,

Frank Tripucka, directed Leahy's T formation offense with comparable effectiveness.

There was special interest in Leahy, of course. He was born in O'Neill, Neb., and had attended high school in Omaha as well as in Winner, S.D., before enrolling at Notre Dame in 1927. He earned football letters in 1928 and 1929 under Rockne, before a knee injury ended his playing career.

Leahy's 1948 team had a Nebraskan on its roster, sophomore halfback Leo McKillip, who was from McCook. Cornhusker sophomore Howard Fletcher, an end, also was from McCook, which

explained why KRBM in McCook was among seven radio stations that broadcast the game.

John Bentley, Nebraska's director of athletic publicity, prepared Memorial Stadium's press box to handle nearly 100 reporters and telegraph operators.

Three Chicago newspapers were represented, as were newspapers in Indianapolis, Des Moines and St. Joseph, Mo.

"The arrival of the Notre Dame football team in Nebraska means that Lincoln will be one of the capitals of the gridiron world Saturday," the Lincoln Star reported. Gates at the stadium opened an hour and a half before the 2 p.m. kickoff to accommodate a sellout

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crowd of 37,400, the 20th-consecutive capacity crowd, home and away, in front of which the Fighting Irish had played.

In order to deal with Tripucka's passing skills, Clark adjusted Nebraska's defense, moving taller ends into the secondary during the week's practice. His adjustment proved to be of little value, however, since Notre Dame threw only 11 passes, completing nine for 119 yards.

The Irish attacked Nebraska on the ground, rushing for 502 yards, and wasted little time in taking control of what became a 44-13 victory — Associated Press reporter Jerry Liska had predicted a 44-12 Notre Dame victory, noting that the "Irish should win as they please." Which they did.

Less than four minutes into the game, All-America halfback Emil Sitko scored to cap an 80-yard drive, and before the quarter had ended, fullback John Panelli had broken a 73-yard touchdown run. Notre Dame built a 25-0 lead before the Cornhuskers finally scored just before halftime.

Clark, who had claimed he was a conservative, fundamental coach when he came to Nebraska in 1945, had devised what was called the "South Platte spread" offense in 1948. The Cornhuskers would line up almost from one sideline to the other and then Cletus Fischer "would drop back five or six yards, take the pass from center and run for his life," according to Go Big Red, published in 1966.

Fischer scored both Nebraska touchdowns against the Irish on a day when there would be no dramatic upset. At a "football festival" in Lincoln on the Friday night before the game, Clark and some of his players, including Fischer — who was the game captain — spoke during a rally.

The Cornhuskers would be "starting a new day" against Notre Dame, Clark said.

Hope springs eternal. But sooner or later, reality sets in. And this time it was definitely sooner. ■



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TEXAS CHRISTIAN HORNNED FROGS

Coach Dennis Franchione fled Fort Worth to take over a struggling program at Alabama. Tailback LaDainian Tomlinson, winner of the Doak Walker Award, is gone, too, having left to pursue a career in professional football.

So what's left of the Texas Christian University football program? Quite a bit, according to rookie Coach Gary Patterson.

Let's establish the fact that the Horned Frogs are not one-year wonders who took the college football world by surprise last fall. TCU is coming off a program-changing season in which it won 10 games for the first time since 1938, lost just once during the regular season and lost to Southern Mississippi in the Mobile Alabama Bowl. But the Frogs have done more than that. They won the last two Western Athletic Conference titles and are favored by most experts to win the Conference USA championship this fall. Plus the Frogs have been invited to play in a bowl game each of the last three seasons.

Add it together, and TCU has established itself as a player in the college football world.

"We have a tradition now," said Patterson, who was named Franchione's successor last December. "This team has an understanding of what it takes to be a winning program. We have won back-to-back conference titles, gone to three straight bowl games, and it was because of hard work."

"I believe this team understands that for us to keep winning, we have to continue to have a strong work ethic. This team has a great attitude, and they are determined to continue the tradition."

It won't be easy because the Frogs return just nine starters from a year ago.

However, after opening at Nebraska in the Pigskin Classic in Lincoln, Neb., the schedule is favorable to the

Frogs. The other nonconference games are at North Texas and Southern Methodist, and the Conference USA isn't exactly full of powers. One possible problem: TCU ends the regular season at Southern Miss, the winner of the Mobile Alabama Bowl.

Patterson likely will build this team around another dominating defense. A year ago, TCU was the nation's top defense in yards allowed per game (245.0) and points allowed (9.6). The Horned Frogs ranked seventh against the rush and fourth in passing yards allowed.

Although the Frogs return five starters on defense, the 2001 version will be built around a strong group of linebackers, especially senior strongside linebacker Chad Bayer. Bayer led the team with 107 total tackles as a junior and also recorded three sacks. Adrian Lewis is the starter at middle linebacker.

The Frogs' secondary is the most experienced position on the team. Both cornerbacks, Jason Goss and Bo Springfield, should reclaim their starting positions. Goss, who missed the final seven games of the season because of a knee injury, still intercepted two passes and broke up four others in limited action. Springfield picked off two passes after he moved into the starting lineup when Goss went down with an injury.

Senior Charlie Owens started all 12 games at weak safety and finished fifth on the team with 65 tackles. Although he didn't record an interception, Owens broke up eight passes and made six tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

Kenneth Hilliard and Jared Smitherman will start at free safety and strong safety, respectively. Hilliard has played both cornerback and safety and even started three games a year ago.

TCU needs a major rebuilding job along the defensive front. End Chad McCarty is the lone returning starter.

TCU Sports Information



LaTarence Dunbar caught 17 passes for 251 yards and four touchdowns. He also returned two kickoffs for scores.

McCarty had three sacks and seven tackles behind the line during his first season as a starter.

Senior Joe Hill will start at the other end position, while junior John Turntine takes over at tackle and sophomore Chad Pugh at nose tackle. Hill backed up All-American Aaron Schobel and still managed to post 4.5 sacks in 11 games. Turntine posted 10 tackles as a backup last season, and three came in a win against SMU.

Once again, the Frogs will build their offense around a star, but this time it won't be Tomlinson. Quarterback Casey Printers is coming off a season in which he threw for 1,213 yards and eight touchdowns, the season in which Tomlinson rushed for 2,158 yards and 22 touchdowns.

Printers is a two-year starter, guiding the Frogs to an 18-4 record. He already ranks 10th in school history with 2,797 career passing yards. He also has thrown 24 touchdown passes, fifth most at TCU.



TCU Sports Information

Strongside linebacker Chad Bayer led the Horned Frogs in tackles with 107.

said.

Sophomore Mohammad Shittu, who did not carry the football last season, goes into fall camp as the No. 1 fullback.

Up front, only left guard Victor Payne returns to reclaim his starting spot. The other spots will be filled by players who were reserves a year ago. Sophomore John Glud will start at left tackle, Jamal Powell at center, J.T. Aughinbaugh at right guard and Brady Barrick at the other tackle position.

All things considered, TCU has more question marks than exclamation points heading into fall camp. The Frogs do have standout players to build around, but for the most part the squad is untested.

Patterson, however, isn't worried. He points to what the Frogs have done the previous three seasons and is confident the trend will continue.

"No, I would not call this a rebuilding year," he said. "But we do need to gain some experience to be successful in the fall. Casey Printers has an 18-4 record as our starting quarterback, and we return a large group of players that were on a defense that was ranked No. 1 in the nation.

"The key this year will be how quickly our young players mature into their roles. If they raise their level of play, then we have a good chance to be a very good football team." ■ — *By Mark Derowitsch*

Printers has just one experienced receiver to throw to in LaTarence Dunbar. Reggie Harrell, Kevin Brown and tight end B.J. Roberts are also slated as starters.

How the Frogs will replace Tomlinson is the biggest question of fall camp. Senior Andrew Hayes-Stoker and Ricky Madison are the leading contenders. Hayes-Stoker rushed just 40 times for 178 yards while Madison had 20 carries for 86 yards.

"Offensively, we need to find a go-to tailback and a fullback," Patterson

AT A GLANCE

AFFILIATION: Western Athletic Conference/Conference USA.

PLAYS NEBRASKA: Aug. 25 in Lincoln.

STRENGTHS

Junior **Casey Printers** is one of the most exciting quarterbacks in college football. Printers completed 86 of 150 attempts for 1,584 yards and 16 touchdowns a year ago and made it difficult for opposing teams to key on the Frogs' formidable running game.

QUESTION MARKS

Whether the inexperienced offensive line can open holes to keep the running game at high speed is the biggest question mark heading into the fall. Left guard **Victor Payne** is the lone returning starter.

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

One of the goals will be to get the ball in the hands of big-play receiver **LaTarence Dunbar** as much as possible, even with direct snaps or having him line up in the backfield. He was the No. 1 kickoff returner in the nation, and can be a running back or wide receiver.

REPLACING LT

Senior **Andrew Hayes-Stoker** and sophomore **Ricky Madison**, who combined to rush for 264 yards, have the impossible task of trying to replace standout tailback **LaDainian Tomlinson**, who rushed for 2,158 yards and was the No. 5 pick in the NFL Draft. Tomlinson was the first TCU player taken in the first round since **Norm Bulaich** in 1970.

ROOKIE COACH

Gary Patterson, 40, replaces **Dennis Franchione** after 18 years as a college assistant, including the last three as the TCU defensive coordinator and safeties coach. Under Patterson's tutelage, the 2000 Horned Frogs ranked No. 1 in the nation in total defense, allowing just 245.0 yards per game, and in scoring defense, giving up 9.6 points per game. Franchione moved to Alabama.

2000 RECORD: 10-2 CONFERENCE FINISH: 7-1

S 9	@ Nevada	W, 41-10
S 16	Northwestern	W, 41-14
S 23	Arkansas St.	W, 52-3
S 30	@ Navy	W, 24-0
O 7	Hawaii	W, 41-21
O 21	@ Tulsa	W, 17-3
O 28	Rice	W, 37-0
N 4	@ San Jose St.	L, 27-24
N 11	Fresno State	W, 24-7
N 18	Texas-El Paso	W, 47-14
M 24	@ So. Methodist	W 62-7
D 20	So. Mississippi& 8th/9th Alabama Bowl, Mobile, Ala	L, 28-21

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

WR	LaTarence Dunbar	5-11 187 Jr.	DE	Chad McCarty	6-2 255 Sr.
	Terran Williams	5-10 166 Jr.		Bo Schobel	6-5 254 So.
LT	John Glud	6-6 332 So.	DT	John Turntine	6-2 267 Jr.
	Anthony Alabi	6-6 318 Fr.		Richard Evans	6-3 279 So.
LG	Victor Payne	6-1 305 Sr.	NT	Chad Pugh	6-3 277 So.
	Josh Harbuck	6-8 322 Jr.		Brandon Johnson	6-2 292 Fr.
C	Jamal Powell	6-3 322 Jr.	DE	Joe Hill	6-4 238 Sr.
	Chase Johnson	6-2 291 Fr.		Robert Pollard	6-3 255 So.
RG	J.T. Aughinbaugh	6-6 323 Jr.	SLB	Chad Bayer	5-11 231 Sr.
	Zach Bray	6-4 314 Fr.		LaMarcus McDonald	6-1 217 Jr.
RT	Randy Barrick	6-5 303 Jr.	MLB	Adrian Lewis	6-2 210 Sr.
	Jonathan Morgan	6-4 327 So.		Josh Goolsby	6-2 236 So.
TE	B.J. Roberts	6-3 237 Sr.	LCB	Jason Goss	5-9 182 Jr.
	Matt Schobel	6-5 257 Sr.		Kenrick Patterson	5-11 180 Sr.
QB	Casey Printers	6-3 200 Jr.	WS	Charlie Owens	6-0 188 Jr.
	Sean Stillay	6-5 234 Jr.		Nathan Roach	6-1 198 Jr.
FB	Mohammad Shittu	5-11 231 So.	FS	Kenneth Hilliard	6-1 198 Jr.
	Jon Muther	6-2 230 Jr.		Jason Higham	5-10 183 Sr.
TB	Andrew Hayes-Stoker	5-8 194 Sr.	SS	Jared Smitherman	6-0 210 Jr.
	Ricky Madison	5-9 193 So.		Maryin Godbolt	6-0 195 Fr.
WR	Reggie Harrell	6-3 209 Fr.	RCB	Bo Springfield	5-10 183 Jr.
	Reuben Randle	6-4 212 Fr.		Tyrone Sanders	5-10 170 So.
PK	Tommy Taylor	5-9 143 So.	P	Joey Biasatti	5-11 192 Jr.

Players with starting experience in bold

TROY STATE TROJANS

Welcome to the big time, Troy State.

As the newest member of Division I-A football (at least as a transition member), you'll get a first-hand, close-up look at college football at its finest. Lucky for you, in your very first game you'll get to see what it takes to be at the top end of the food chain.

Enjoy your stay in Lincoln, Neb., as you start your transition season (in which games will count as official Division I-A games for your opponents but in which you're not eligible for a bowl game).

Not that you'd be going to a bowl game. Besides opening with Nebraska, you'll also play at Miami, Mississippi State and Maryland. This would be a good time to start thinking about the future.

And that's exactly what Trojans Coach Larry Blakeney had in mind when he put together this schedule.

"The magnitude of the people we are playing and the quality of competition lights you up as a coach, and it lights our players up," Blakeney said. "It gives you something to get excited about in a year where you can't play for a championship or go to a bowl. We're playing for money and pride, yes, but we are also building a foundation for the future of this program."

The Trojans aren't intimidated by what lies ahead, nor should they be.

Troy State's football team won two NCAA Division II national championships during the 1980s, moved up to I-AA in 1993 and made seven playoff appearances, including two in the semifinals. In the last eight years, the Trojans were 77-22-1.

"We realize that we will have our hands full with our schedule, but I told our kids in December after the season was over that we aren't taking anything for granted," Blakeney said. "We are going to prepare to the best of our ability. We don't know how we will stack up against these opponents, but our main goal is to be prepared for every

game we play — not just the big ones."

A year ago, the Trojans went 9-3 on the field, but were awarded a forfeit against Northwestern State. Twelve starters return to help the Trojans step into the big time.

Troy State enters I-A football with a brand new offense to show off. The Trojans will enter Lincoln ready to debut a spread formation, utilizing four wideouts and one running back, similar to what the Huskers faced against Louisiana Tech in the coaching debut of Frank Solich.

"We feel like this new offense will put us closer to being able to do what we need to do at the next level — which is spread the defense out and give us an opportunity to score quickly," Blakeney said.

Troy State will build its offense around quarterback Brock Nutter, a three-year starter and a first-team All-Southland Football League selection a year ago. As a junior a year ago, Nutter had three 200-yard plus games and was intercepted just five times.

Nutter will likely rely on junior Heyward Skipper, especially early in the season because the Trojans lack depth at wide receiver. Skipper started nine games last season in which he caught 26 passes and scored twice. However, after Skipper, the Trojans have just three other receivers who caught at least 10 passes last season.

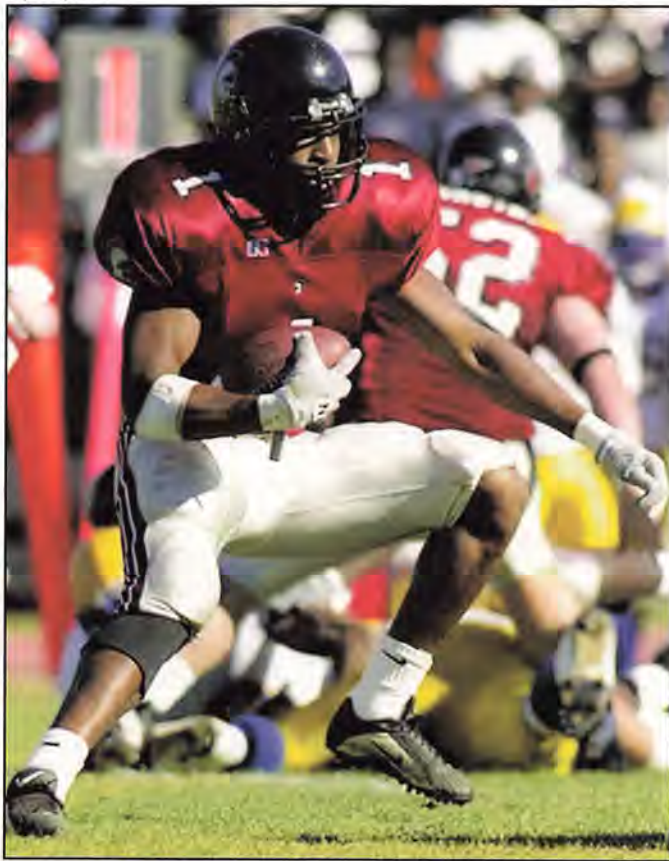
Demontray Carter will make sure the Trojans aren't a one-dimensional offense. Carter rushed for more than

800 yards and contributed 1,200 yards of total offense in his first season at Troy State. He led the team with nine touchdowns and was named the SFL's newcomer of the year.

He'll be spelled by LeBarron Black, a bruiser who gained 385 yards last season, and freshman DeWhitt Betterson.

Of course, for Troy State's offense to be effective, the people up front will have to do their jobs. That may be difficult early on as just one starter — left tackle Stan

Troy State Sports Information



Tailback Demontray Carter is a versatile weapon who can catch the ball out of the backfield as well as grind out yardage inside.

Curington — returns.

Only two other Trojans — Rodney Jordan and Johnny Maddox — saw limited time up front. Trent Garmon left spring practice as the team's starting center. Junior Robin Lee also earned some playing time with a solid spring.

Like the Trojan offense, the defense has some solid areas and some question marks with just six starters returning.

Blakeney likely isn't worried about the Trojans' line, a spot where three starters return and where four other players gained significant experience in 2000.

Nose tackle Osi Umenyiora anchors the line after a season in which he made 83 total tackles and recorded seven quarterback hurries. Umenyiora, who will shift to right end this fall, and end Vernon Marable and Davern

Williams all earned all-league honors last season. Jose Gamboa will step into Umenyiora's former spot at nose tackle.

Troy State gave up just 104 yards rushing per game last season, tops in the conference.

The Trojans are stacked at linebacker, too. Middle linebacker Naazir Yamini and weakside linebacker Jimmy McClain were the team's leading tacklers.

Yamini had a career-high 120 tackles, led the team with six sacks and forced three fumbles as a sophomore. He also had a 19-tackle performance against Sam Houston State. McClain had 107 stops and also had 15 hur-

Senior linebacker Jimmy McClain was second in tackles with 107.

ries and two forced fumbles. McClain will move to strong-side this fall.

"Naazir had a great year last year, and we expect him to only improve," linebacker coach Wayne Bolt said. "And there has never been a better linebacker around here than Jimmy McClain. Those two are solid for us."

The linemen and linebackers will have to help out a young, inexperienced secondary. Troy State does return three cornerbacks who started last season — Deiric Jackson, David Philyaw and Rayshun Reed. Reed played just seven games before a knee injury cut his season short, but he still earned all-conference honors after he broke up 15 passes.

Troy State needs to replace two four-year starters in its kicking game. Redshirt freshman Drew Boteler won the place-kicking job during spring drills. Four players will head into the fall battling at punter.

The Trojans know they're not going to take the big-time college football world by storm. Their mission is a little more realistic.

"This isn't going to be easy, and our players know that," Blakeney said. "But they want to carry on the legacy left by the players before them and the teams of the past."

"We, at least, want to be respectable and, at best, shock the world. That is the mindset we want this year." ■

— By Mark Derowitsch



Troy State Sports Information

AT A GLANCE

AFFILIATION: Southland Football League.
PLAYS NEBRASKA: Sept. 1 in Lincoln.

STRENGTHS

The Trojans have the element of surprise in their favor, having spent 15 practices in the spring installing a different offense. First-year offensive coordinator **Jim Shannon** put in a spread offense, replacing the multiple set Troy State has used in the past.

QUESTION MARKS

How Troy State protects quarterback **Brock Nutter** is the main concern heading into the fall. The Trojans will have four new starters on the offensive line. Not exactly a comforting thought when your first game is against Nebraska.

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

Senior tailback **Demontray Carter** was the Southland Football League Newcomer of the Year after rushing for 804 yards and six touchdowns. He also caught 12 passes for 224 yards and two scores and averaged 34.1 yards on kickoff returns.

AUBURN PRODUCT

Coach **Larry Blakeney** spent 14 seasons as an assistant coach at Auburn before he took over the Troy State program. He has a 92-29-1 record in 10 seasons at the Troy, Ala., school.

I-AA RANKINGS

The Trojans were ranked third in the final ESPN/USA Today Division I-AA poll. They spent three weeks at No. 1.

DIFFERENT WORLD

The attendance for Troy State's final game of the 2000 season was listed at 4,916. The largest crowd to see a Troy State game last year was 25,786 at South Florida.

TALK ABOUT DURABLE

Fourteen players started every game last fall for the 10-2 Trojans.

2000 RECORD: 10-2 CONFERENCE FINISH: 7-0

S 2	@ Alabama A&M	W, 28-13
S 9	@ Appalachian St.	W, 34-28
S 16	Alabama S.	W, 62-19
S 30	@ South Florida	L, 20-10
O 7	@ Nrhwstrn St.	L, 24-17#
O 12	SW Texas St.	W, 31-7
O 21	@ Sam Houston St.	W, 23-21
O 28	Nicholls St.	W, 41-12
N 4	@ Steph. F. Austin	W, 6-0
N 11	McNeese St.	W, 20-16
N 18	@ Jacksonville St.	W, 28-0
N 25	@ Appalachian St.	L 33-30

#Game later forfeited by NWS — ineligible player.
& I-AA Playoff Game.

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

WR	Heyward Skipper	6-1	182	Jr.	LE	Vernon Marable	6-2	260	Jr.
	Chris Day	6-1	185	So.		Shelton Felton	6-2	250	Jr.
LT	Stan Curington	6-7	286	Jr.	DT	Davern Williams	6-3	289	Jr.
	Sam Forehand	6-8	360	Jr.		Carlos Stennis	6-2	271	Sr.
LG	Robin Lee	6-2	289	Jr.	NG	Jose Gamboa	6-1	275	Jr.
	Johnny Maddox	6-3	271	Jr.		Byron Knight	5-11	265	Jr.
C	Trent Garmon	6-2	309	Jr.	RE	Osi Umenyiora	6-4	270	Jr.
	Charlie Goodyear	6-2	260	Sr.		Greg Mills	6-2	260	So.
RG	Rodney Jordan	6-5	291	Jr.	SLB	Jimmy McClain	6-1	230	Sr.
	Obed Ellis	6-3	275	Jr.		Robby Farmer	6-2	220	So.
RT	Branden Hall	6-4	300	So.	MLB	Naazir Yamini	5-11	234	Jr.
	Lee Walls	6-5	305	Jr.		Ben Waldrop	6-1	230	Sr.
TE	Adrian Moore	6-1	230	Jr.	WLB	Corey Sears	6-1	219	Sr.
	Cedric Phillips	6-3	230	So.		Gordon Williams	6-1	205	Jr.
QB	Brock Nutter	6-1	208	Sr.	LCB	Deiric Jackson	5-8	179	Jr.
	Hansell Bearden	6-1	190	Fr.		Travis Dunlap	5-8	173	So.
TB	Demontray Carter	5-10	191	Sr.	FS	Ronald Harper	6-1	180	So.
	LeBarron Black	5-10	205	Jr.		Derrick Anstey	6-2	175	Fr.
FB	LaQuateus Justice	5-10	232	Jr.	SS	Rayshun Reed	5-10	184	Jr.
	Jonathan Tomlin	6-3	228	Jr.		Deloise Moore	6-1	205	Jr.
SL	Jer. Richardson	5-10	180	So.	RCB	Freeman White	5-9	175	So.
	Daniel O'Brien	6-2	180	Sr.		David Philyaw	5-9	185	Jr.
PK	Drew Boteler	5-8	165	Fr.	P	Derek Bynum	6-1	203	Jr.

Players with starting experience in bold

NOTRE DAME FIGHTING IRISH

Notre Dame should have no trouble making the trip to Lincoln this September to play Nebraska. They already know what it's like to play in a sea of red.

A year ago, Nebraska fans by the thousands migrated to South Bend to watch the Huskers pull out an overtime win against the Irish. More than half the stadium was filled with red-clad, vocal Nebraska backers who left the scene after watching the Huskers pull out a 27-24 overtime win on Eric Crouch's 7-yard run.

For sure, Notre Dame's first trip to Nebraska since 1948 won't have people in Memorial Stadium breaking out in green. No, Lincoln won't be turned into a green party that weekend (sorry Ralph Nader).

There's a chance that afterward, some Husker fans could end up feeling a little blue. This is not the Notre Dame of Gerry Faust or the early years of Bob Davie, the embattled current coach who saved his job last season.

The Irish rebounded from the loss to the Huskers well, winning their final seven games to finish with a 9-3 record and a berth in the Fiesta Bowl against Oregon State. This from a program that was 5-7 the year before.

Notre Dame did it with a transfer quarterback who nearly got lost in the shuffle.

Arnaz Battle helped push the Huskers to the limit, but he suffered a season-ending injury during the game.

Enter Matt LoVecchio. The sophomore threw for 980 yards and 11 touchdowns and was intercepted just once during the final seven games of the regular season.

But LoVecchio hasn't been guaranteed any playing time this fall other than he'll lead the Irish into Lincoln. LoVecchio spent all spring fighting off a challenge from Jared Clark and highly touted Carlyle Holiday, who turned down an offer to play for the Huskers before joining the Irish.

In the Irish spring game, LoVecchio had the worst stats of the three, completing 3 of 10 passing for 48 yards.

Holiday was 7 of 13 for 66 yards, with one interception. Clark was 3 of 7 for 78 yards, with one interception and one fumble.

Davie, however, said regardless of what happens in fall camp, LoVecchio will start the Notre Dame opener.

"He's the starter going into Nebraska," Davie said. "When we walk out there in Lincoln, I want a guy who's been under the gun and can play."

LoVecchio may not be the quickest Irish quarterback or

possess the strongest arm, but he's smart, savvy and doesn't make mistakes. Need proof? Notre Dame had just eight turnovers (four fumbles, four interceptions) during the entire 2000 season, an NCAA record.

"He gets us into the right play," offensive coordinator Kevin Rogers said of LoVecchio before the Irish played Oregon State in the Fiesta Bowl last January. "More than anything else, he doesn't get us beat. And now he's starting to make some plays at the same time. If you look — the other day I pulled off every play that we ran for over 20 yards. There is a ton of them that are passes or quarterback runs. So he's getting better."

Battle, who rushed for 104 yards against the Huskers, will not be in the quarterback mix. He moved to flanker, where he's expected to play a major role in the Irish offense.

"It's something we don't have to deal with," Rogers said in January of a possible quarterback controversy. "Yet the whole move was stimulated by Arnaz. It wasn't a matter of us trying to convince Arnaz to play another position. It is what Arnaz Battle wanted to do."

The Irish already have plenty of talent at wide receiver. Flanker David Givens led Notre Dame with 25 catches for 310 yards and two scores last season. Javin Hunter, the starter at split end, also returns, after he posted a respectable 13 catches and three touchdowns as a junior.

Notre Dame Sports Information



Tailback Julius Jones was Notre Dame's leading rusher, as well as a dangerous kickoff returner.

Notre Dame has talent in the backfield, too. Junior Julius Jones is back after a season in which he ran for a team-high 657 yards and seven touchdowns. He was also a dangerous return specialist, having returned a kickoff 100 yards against the Huskers last season. Jones was a CNNSI.com first-team All-American as a return specialist last season.

The Irish have plenty of other quality running backs. Senior Tony Fisher spells Jones at tailback, and he rushed for 607 yards last season. Terrance Howard got into the act to the tune of 424 rushing yards on 75 carries.

Tom Lopienski is a returning starter at fullback but was challenged in the spring by fellow senior Jason Murray.

Notre Dame's biggest question mark on offense centers around the line, where right guard Mike Gandy and left guard Jim Jones, who both earned some All-America honors, must be replaced. Tackles Jordan Black and Kurt Vollers are experienced, and center Jeff Faine was a starter last season.

Seniors Ryan Scarola and Sean Mahan and junior Sean Milligan are expected to replace Gandy and Jones at guard.

Notre Dame has plenty of play-makers on defense, including defensive end Grant Irons, outside linebacker Rocky Boiman and strong safety Ron Israel.

Irons and Anthony Weaver will bookend the Irish defensive front. Irons, who missed part of the 2000 season with a shoulder injury, is healthy heading into the fall. Weaver is coming off a season in which he posted a



Notre Dame Sports Information

Co-captain Grant Irons missed part of the 2000 season with a shoulder injury.

team-high eight sacks.

Ryan Roberts will see time at end as well. He had five sacks a year ago. End Kyle Budniscak had five sacks during Notre Dame's annual spring game and turned a few heads.

The two tackle spots are up for grabs, with senior Andy Wisne and juniors Cedric Hillard and Darrell Campbell the leading candidates. Wisne is the only player of the trio to have starting experience.

Seniors Boiman and Tyreo Harrison will anchor the linebacker corp. Boiman made 58 tackles and was credited with 3.5 sacks last season while Harrison started 10 games and was in on 46 stops. Junior Courtney Watson is the probable starter at the other inside spot.

Israel will lead an experienced secondary that also includes returning starter Shane Walton at cornerback. Senior Clifford Jefferson, junior Jason Beckstrom and sophomore Vontez Duff will battle for the other starting spot at cornerback. Glenn Earl is the likely starter at free safety.

Nick Setta is a proven kicker. He made 8 of 14 field goal attempts and missed just one of 45 point-after attempts last season. Punter Joey Hildbold was a Ray Guy Award finalist last season after he averaged 40.3 yards per attempt.

Notre Dame has the tools to make another run at the Bowl Championship Series. First, it wants to quiet college football's original sea of red. That's one thing the Irish can count on seeing. ■ — *By Mark Derowitsch*

AT A GLANCE

AFFILIATION: Independent.

PLAYS NEBRASKA: Sept. 8 in Lincoln.

STRENGTHS

Quarterback **Matt LoVecchio** isn't the prettiest looking quarterback in college football, but the sophomore proved he can win. He started the final seven games of the regular season, won all seven and helped the Irish turn a 2-3 start into a 9-3 stellar season. His reward? He'll have to beat out a couple of highly recruited stars in **Jared Clark** and **Carlyle Holiday**.

WEAKNESSES

The team is experienced at just about every position, but will have to get through a killer schedule to end up back in a BCS bowl. In September alone, the Irish play road games at Nebraska, Purdue and Texas A&M and face Michigan State at home.

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

Junior **Julius Jones**, who led Notre Dame in rushing with 657 yards and seven touchdowns, made a big impact as a kick returner, averaging 28.5 yards on 15 returns, including a 100-yard touchdown return against Nebraska.

TAILBACK BY COMMITTEE

The Fighting Irish do not have a big-name star at tailback, but they did average 213.5 yards per game on the ground last year, which ranked 14th nationally.

TWO-TIME CAPTAIN

Grant Irons was selected as a captain for the second time in his career. Irons, who missed most of last season because of a shoulder injury, becomes the first repeat captain at Notre Dame since **Ron Powllus** in 1996-97. Irons is one of three brothers to play college football.

EARLY START

Notre Dame will open the 2002 season against Maryland on Sunday, August 25, in Kickoff Classic XX at Giants Stadium.

2000 RECORD: 9-3

S 2	Texas A&M	W, 24-10
S 9	Nebraska	L, 27-24 (ot)
S 16	Purdue	W, 23-21
S 23	@ Michigan St.	L, 27-21
O 7	Stanford	W, 20-14
O 14	Navy#	W, 45-14
O 21	West Virginia	W, 42-28
O 28	Air Force	W, 34-31
N 11	Boston College	W, 28-16
N 18	@ Rutgers	W, 45-17
N 25	@ Southern Cal	W, 38-21
J 1	Oregon St.&	L, 41-9

#Orlando, Fla.
&Fiesta Bowl, Tempe, Ariz.

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

FL	Javin Hunter	6-0	190	Sr.	LE	Anthony Weaver	6-3	276	Sr.
	Ronnie Rodamer	6-4	210	So.		Kyle Budniscak	6-4	246	So.
LT	Jordan Black	6-6	308	Sr.	DT	Darrell Campbell	6-4	285	Jr.
	Brennan Currin	6-8	315	Jr.		Greg Pauly	6-6	271	So.
LG	Sean Mahan	6-3	290	Sr.	NG	Andy Wisne	6-3	279	Sr.
	Ryan Gillis	6-3	300	Jr.		Cedric Hillard	6-2	294	Jr.
C	Jeff Faine	6-3	290	Jr.	RE	Grant Irons	6-5	275	Sr.
	JW Jordan	6-1	269	Sr.		Ryan Roberts	6-2	254	Sr.
RG	Sean Milligan	6-4	286	Jr.	ILB	Tyreo Harrison	6-2	240	Sr.
or	Ryan Scarola	6-5	310	Sr.		Ryan Roberts	6-2	254	Sr.
RT	Kurt Vollers	6-7	307	Sr.	ILB	Courtney Watson	6-1	223	Jr.
	John Teasdale	6-5	305	Sr.		Mike Goolsby	6-3	236	So.
TE	John Owens	6-3	260	Sr.	OLB	Rocky Boiman	6-4	239	Sr.
	Gary Godsey	6-6	239	Jr.		Jerome Collins	6-4	231	So.
QB	Matt LoVecchio	6-4	194	So.	LCB	Vontez Duff	5-11	186	So.
	Carlyle Holiday	6-3	203	So.	or	Clifford Jefferson	5-9	175	Sr.
FB	Jason Murray	6-1	259	Sr.	FS	Glenn Earl	6-2	213	Jr.
or	Tom Lopienski	6-1	236	Sr.		Donald Dykes	5-11	197	Sr.
TB	Julius Jones	5-10	206	Jr.	SS	Ron Israel	6-0	208	Sr.
or	Tony Fisher	6-2	225	Sr.		Gerome Sapp	6-0	213	Jr.
FL	David Givens	6-3	214	Sr.	CB	Shane Walton	5-11	183	Sr.
	Arnaz Battle	6-1	221	Sr.		Jason Beckstrom	5-10	190	Jr.
PK	Nick Setta	5-11	169	Jr.	P	Joey Hildbold	5-1	185	Jr.

Players with starting experience in bold

RICE OWLS

Rice already has experienced the thrill of playing in two of the top college football cities in America. So coming to Nebraska on Sept. 15 shouldn't be a frightening experience.

Last season, the Owls traveled to Ann Arbor, Mich., and Norman, Okla., losing to the University of Michigan and Oklahoma, respectively. At Oklahoma, Rice managed to score two touchdowns in a 42-14 loss to the eventual national champion Sooners.

Even with the Owls' not-so-excellent adventures last season, Coach Ken Hatfield doesn't hold back anything when he talks about bringing his team to Lincoln, Neb., home of the nation's longest sellout streak. In fact, Hatfield believes the Owls can sneak out of town with a victory.

"Nebraska is a great team with a sellout crowd," Hatfield said. "Not too many teams go up there and spank them. It's a great challenge early in the year, so we'll be looking forward to that trip. It helps out enormously to have 26 seniors, they've played in those games, and we played hard all the time."

"I never went in thinking we weren't going to win the ballgame, and we will go up there thinking we will win the ballgame."

Of course it helps knowing most of the players who experienced the sights and sounds in two of college football's best atmospheres will be making the trek up north to face the Huskers. Hatfield brings 17 starters among a group of 50 returning letterwinners back for another season.

If the Owls can improve on a 3-8 season, they'll have to stay healthy. All last year, the Owls had to deal with injuries at key positions, which is one reason why they won just once in their first six games.

The position that suffered from the injury bug the most

was at quarterback. Jeremy Hurd, who was the starter to open the year, missed half the season because of a broken finger on his passing hand. When he returned, he went down again with a knee injury. Backup Corey Evans had a hamstring injury early in the season, then missed the final three games because of knee problems.

When they were healthy, both Hurd and Evans proved they could run the Owls' option attack. Evans rushed for

395 yards, second most on the team, while Hurd gained 4.4 yards each time he carried the ball. Yet the two had trouble throwing the ball. Hurd completed 8 of 25 passes for 129 yards while Evans was 17 of 57 for 271 yards.

Sophomore Kyle Herm, a transfer from Texas-El Paso, also figures into Hatfield's quarterback plans.

Look for Hatfield to go to the air more, too, this season. Sophomore Gavin Boothe led the team with 18 catches for 313 yards and three touchdowns. Senior Gilbert Okoronkwo had 11 receptions. Brandon Boyd, Matt Webber and Josh Seale will also battle for playing time. Veterans Brandon Manning and Travis Thompson will handle the chores at tight end.

Hatfield expects big things this season from Okoronkwo, a 6-foot-3 sophomore.

"Probably the guy who made the biggest improvement was Gilbert

Okoronkwo," he said. "He had a great spring catching the ball, blocking and doing a lot of things."

When the Owls stick to the ground, look for fullbacks Jamie Tyler and Robbie Beck to lead the way when Rice is in the wishbone. Tyler led Rice in rushing with 400 yards on just 95 attempts. Beck added 358 yards and led the team with seven rushing touchdowns. Halfbacks Sean White, Leroy Bradley and younger players like Vincent Hawkins

Rice Sports Information



Jamie Tyler, Rice's leading rusher in 2000 with 400 yards and five touchdowns, leads a 1-2 punch at fullback.

and Clint Hatfield caught the attention of Coach Hatfield during spring practice.

"In the spring, we got accomplished what we wanted to get accomplished, which was getting a look at some of our good, young running backs like Clint Hatfield, who has done a good job," he said. "Sean White's come on good and the ability to work with Kyle Herm for the first time since he's been healthy and the experience of Jeremy Hurd, who has played."

Four starters return on the Owls' line — guards Heath Fowler and Ryan Smith, center Ben Stephens and tackle Billy Harvin. Rice also returns center Aaron Sandoval, who missed all last season because of a knee injury. Senior Anthony Mowry will start fall practice as the Owls' top left tackle.

Defensively, the Owls have the ability to stop their

opponent's running game. Tackle B.J. Forgyson, who played just five games while battling knee injuries, and nose guard Larry Brown, will make it difficult to run up the middle. Brandon Green and Clint Johnson will start at ends. Green led the team with four sacks and two forced fumbles.

Rice is also experienced at linebacker, where Dan Dawson led the team in tackles with 88 tackles, seven interceptions and nine tackles behind the line of scrimmage.

"Bandit" linebacker Dan Dawson led the Owls in tackles and had seven interceptions.

Dawson did this despite missing all of 1999 because of a broken leg. Rashard Pittman and Jeff Vanover will share duties at strongside linebacker while Joe Bob Thompson is the Owls' top player at weakside.

The secondary will be led by free safety Jason Hebert and cornerback Kenny Smith. Hebert intercepted two passes while Smith had one pick and three more breakups a year ago. Antwan Shell will step in at strong safety, replacing all-WAC standout Travis Ortega.

Three redshirts — Jason Benjamin, Raymorris Barnes and Clifford Sparks — will split duties at the other cornerback position.

"I think a real key is how well some guys come through for us at cornerback," Hatfield said. "I think our safeties are good and I think it's important to get some cornerbacks to play well. I think we've got three or four guys we're playing out there that really have to come through for us."

Rice even has experienced kickers. Travis Hale was an all-WAC player a year ago, averaging 41.8 yards per punt, which ranked 24th nationally. Derek Crabtree led the Owls in scoring with 50 points (26 point-after attempts and converting on eight of 12 field goals).

White was Rice's leading returner, averaging 16.3 yards per kickoff return and more than nine yards each time he fielded a punt. ■ — *By Mark Derowitsch*



Rice Sports Information

AT A GLANCE

AFFILIATION: Western Athletic Conference.
PLAYS NEBRASKA: Sept. 15 in Lincoln.

STRENGTHS

Rice returns talent and depth at the linebacker positions, led by All-America candidate **Dan Dawson**, who led the Owls in tackles and interceptions from. **Rashard Pittman** started all 11 games but is listed as the backup to **Jeff Vanover**, who started four games as a freshman. **Joe Bob Thompson** started the first seven games but faces a challenge from junior **Justin Engler**.

QUESTION MARKS

The Owls need more productivity out of quarterbacks **Jeremy Hurd** and **Corey Evans**, who split time last season. The two combined for just 400 yards passing and one touchdown last season. If Rice hopes to spread the field out more this year in its option attack, the quarterbacks must do better.

DIFFERENCE-MAKER

"Bandit" outside linebacker **Dan Dawson** emerged as one of the top players in the WAC last season. He led the team with 88 tackles (including 33 solo stops) and intercepted seven passes. Dawson also returned an interception for a touchdown.

OFFENSIVE LEADER

Scott Wachenheim has been promoted to offensive coordinator, and **John Bland** has joined the staff as quarterbacks coach. Wachenheim, the offensive line coach for the Owls for the past seven years, replaces **David Lee**, who took a position at Arkansas. Bland had been the head coach at Southern Arkansas University.

2000 RECORD: 3-8
CONFERENCE FINISH: 2-6

S 2	Houston	W, 30-27, OT
S 9	@ Michigan	L, 38-7
S 16	Tulsa	L, 23-16
S 23	@ Oklahoma	L, 42-14
S 30	@ San Jose St.	L, 29-16
O 5	Fresno State	L, 27-24
O 21	Hawaii	W, 38-13
O 28	@ Texas Christian	L, 37-0
N 4	So. Methodist	W, 43-14
N 11	@ Texas-El Paso	L, 38-21
N 18	@ Nevada	L, 34-28

HAS IT BEEN THAT LONG?

One of Rice's top recruits last winter was quarterback **Thomas Lott III**, the son of former Oklahoma quarterback **Thomas Lott**. As a high school senior last year, he rushed for 1,742 yards and 17 touchdowns. Wonder if he wears a bandana?

TENTATIVE DEPTH CHART

SE	Gavin Boothe	6-2 185 So.	DE	Brandon Green	6-3 251 Jr.
	Gilbert Okoronkwo	6-3 204 Sr.		Rene Aniniao	6-2 210 Fr.
LT	Anthony Mowry	6-4 272 Sr.	DT	B.J. Forgyson	6-3 290 Sr.
	Paxton Corder	6-3 281 So.		Ross Lassley	6-3 258 So.
LG	Keith Meyer	6-3 284 Jr.	NG	Larry Brown	6-2 309 Sr.
	Greg Wilson	6-4 307 Fr.		Jonathan Chism	6-3 250 So.
C	Aaron Sandoval	6-2 295 Sr.	DE	Clint Johnson	6-1 250 Sr.
	Ben Stephens	6-2 290 So.		Nick Sabula	6-2 215 Jr.
RG	Heath Fowler	6-2 275 Sr.	SLB	Jeff Vanover	5-11 255 So.
	Ryan Smith	6-2 319 Sr.		Rashard Pittman	5-11 237 Sr.
RT	Billy Harvin	6-4 275 Sr.	WLB	Justin Engler	6-2 214 Jr.
	Clint Crisp	6-3 285 Jr.		Joe B. Thompson	6-0 224 Sr.
TE	Brandon Manning	6-4 245 Sr.	BAN	Dan Dawson	6-2 200 Sr.
	Travis Thompson	6-2 240 Jr.		Antwan Shell	6-0 224 Sr.
QB	Jeremy Hurd	5-10 160 So.	LCB	Jason Benjamin	5-7 155 So.
	Kyle Herm	5-8 175 So.		Clifford Sparks	5-9 189 Fr.
LHB	Leroy Bradley	5-11 205 Sr.	SS	Greg Gatlin	6-0 175 Jr.
	Derek Gary	6-0 204 Sr.		Terry Holley	6-2 190 Fr.
FB	Jamie Tyler	5-11 220 Sr.	FS	Jason Hebert	6-0 192 Sr.
	Robbie Beck	5-11 212 So.		Patrick Dendy	6-0 170 Fr.
RHB	Sean White	5-6 180 Jr.	RCB	Kenny Smith	5-7 170 Sr.
	Vincent Hawkins	5-6 175 Jr.		Raymond Barnes	5-9 170 Fr.
PK	Derek Crabtree	6-4 230 Sr.	P	Travis Hale	6-3 201 Jr.

Players with starting experience in bold

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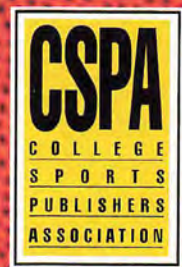
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2002

Aug. 31 — Troy State
Sept. 7 — Utah State
Sept. 14 — at Penn State
Oct. 5 — at Iowa State
Oct. 12 — Missouri
Oct. 19 — at Oklahoma State
Oct. 26 — at Texas A&M
Nov. 2 — Texas
Nov. 9 — Kansas
Nov. 16 — at Kansas State
Nov. 29/30 — Colorado
Dec. 7 — Big 12 Champ. Game

2003

Sept. 6 — Utah State
Sept. 13 — Penn State
Sept. 20 — at So. Mississippi
Oct. 4 — Oklahoma State
Oct. 11 — at Missouri
Oct. 18 — Texas A&M
Oct. 25 — Iowa State
Nov. 1 — at Texas
Nov. 8 — at Kansas
Nov. 15 — Kansas State
Nov. 28/29 — at Colorado
Dec. 6 — Big 12 Champ. Game

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Oct. 20 Texas Tech	Oct. 27 Oklahoma	Nov. 3 at Kansas
Nov. 10 Kansas State	Nov. 23 at Colorado	

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Huskers Illustrated

- 1. Oklahoma . . . tough trying to repeat.**
- 2. Florida . . . Vols, 'Noles at home.**
- 3. Miami . . . Coker takes charge.**
- 4. Oregon . . . "Civil War" in Eugene.**
- 5. Texas . . . "Red River Riot" is key.**
- 6. Tennessee . . . one-season turnaround.**
- 7. Nebraska . . . Sooners come to Lincoln.**
- 8. Florida State . . . out of title race, maybe.**
- 9. Oregon State . . . Erickson miracle continues.**
- 10. Virginia Tech . . . defense but no Vick.**
- 11. Washington . . . no Pac-10 repeat, probably.**
- 12. Kansas State . . . don't dismiss Snyder's 'Cats.**
- 13. Northwestern . . . best in mediocre Big Ten.**
- 14. Georgia Tech . . . can't quite catch 'Noles.**
- 15. Mississippi State . . . still good without Deuce.**

Top 25

BCS Schedule

Jan. 1, 2002 — Fiesta Bowl

Jan. 1, 2002 — Sugar Bowl

Jan. 2, 2002 — Orange Bowl

Jan. 3, 2002 — Rose Bowl*

*National Championship Game

Key Games

Sept. 15 — Tennessee at Florida

Oct. 6 — Oklahoma vs. Texas, Dallas

Oct. 13 — Miami at Florida State

Oct. 27 — Oklahoma at Nebraska

Nov. 17 — Florida State at Florida

Dec. 1 — Oregon State at Oregon

Dec. 1 — Miami at Virginia Tech

Dec. 1 — Big 12 Championship,

Irving, Texas

Dec. 1 — SEC Championship, Atlanta

Final 2000 Ratings

Associated Press		USA Today/ESPN	
Team (Record)	Points	Team (Record)	Points
1. Oklahoma (13-0)	1,775	1. Oklahoma (13-0)	1,475
2. Miami, Fla. (11-1)	1,690	2. Miami Fla (11-1)	1,404
3. Washington (11-1)	1,634	3. Washington (11-1)	1,336
4. Oregon State (11-1)	1,539	4. Florida State (11-2)	1,253
5. Florida State (11-2)	1,488	5. Oregon State (11-1)	1,245
6. Virginia Tech (11-1)	1,432	6. Virginia Tech (11-1)	1,215
7. Oregon (10-2)	1,299	7. Nebraska (10-2)	1,099
8. Nebraska (10-2)	1,282	8. Kansas State (11-3)	1,077
9. Kansas State (11-3)	1,258	9. Oregon (10-2)	1,009
10. Florida (10-3)	1,128	10. Michigan (9-3)	901
11. Michigan (9-3)	1,061	11. Florida (10-3)	899
12. Texas (9-3)	894	12. Texas (9-3)	731
13. Purdue (8-4)	765	13. Purdue (8-4)	626
14. Colorado State (10-2)	640	14. Clemson (9-3)	590
15. Notre Dame (9-3)	611	15. Colorado State (10-2)	587
16. Clemson (9-3)	563	16. Notre Dame (9-3)	457
17. Georgia Tech (9-3)	545	17. Georgia (8-4)	357
18. Auburn (9-4)	498	18. TCU (10-2)	341
19. South Carolina (8-4)	486	19. Georgia Tech (9-3)	335
20. Georgia (8-4)	430	20. Auburn (9-4)	325
21. TCU (10-2)	406	21. South Carolina (8-4)	314
22. LSU (8-4)	340	22. Mississippi State (8-4)	272
23. Wisconsin (9-4)	208	23. Iowa State (9-3)	225
24. Mississippi State (8-4)	197	24. Wisconsin (9-4)	220
25. Iowa State (9-3)	188	25. Tennessee (8-4)	159

16. Colorado State . . . Sonny days ahead.

17. Colorado . . . Buffs back in contention.

18. Louisiana State . . . double duty for Davis.

19. Notre Dame . . . killer schedule early.

20. Wisconsin . . . Alvarez will find a way.

21. Michigan . . . losses hit offense hard.

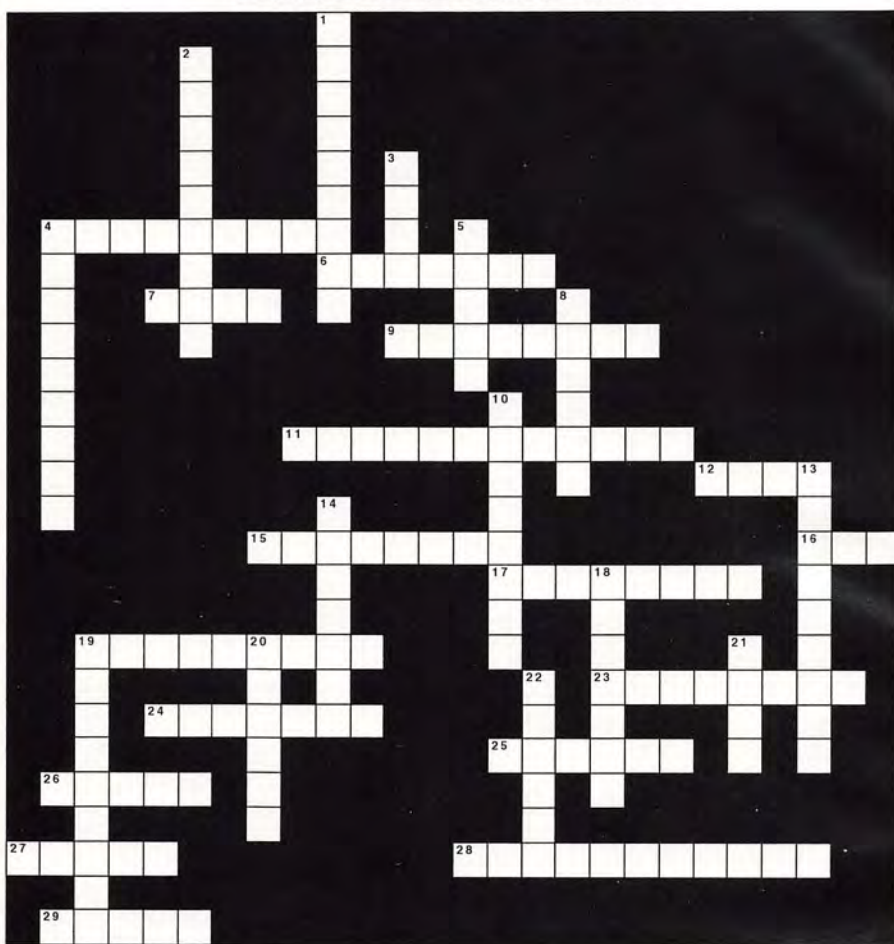
22. Clemson . . . no-huddle befuddles.

23. Pittsburgh . . . get the ball to Bryant.

24. South Carolina . . . can Lou do it again?

25. Southern Cal . . . potential in Palmer passes.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 4 Sept. 1 opponent
- 6 NU's No. 1
- 7 NU quarterback coach
- 9 2000 national champion
- 11 1999 national champion
- 12 Michael Booker's younger brother
- 15 2001 Big 12 opener
- 16 2001 opener
- 17 Frank Solich's alma mater
- 19 Memorial Stadium surface
- 23 NU's No. 99
- 24 1972 head coach
- 25 NU defensive line coach
- 26 NU play-by-play broadcaster
- 27 NU athletic director
- 28 Texas Christian's nickname
- 29 Chad Kelsay's younger brother

DOWN

- 1 2001 Homecoming opponent
- 2 NU running back coach
- 3 NU linebacker coach
- 4 1998 national champion
- 5 NU color commentator
- 8 NU's No. 77

- 10 Tom Osborne's alma mater
- 13 Sept. 8 opponent
- 14 1997 head coach
- 18 NU's first Heisman winner
- 19 Texas Christian's location
- 20 Grant Wistrom's younger brother
- 21 Sept. 15 opponent
- 22 NU's No. 3

Answers in August issue

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A Little Fun Never Hurt

Nebraska cornerback Craver doesn't want to be like everybody else



Mike BABCOCK

THE PROCESS IS TEDIOUS, recording interviews and transcribing the tapes. And it tends to erode note-taking skills, for when deadlines are tight and there is no time to transcribe.

Nevertheless, recording is the best way to ensure the accuracy of quotes. So I preserve interviews on a microcassette recorder, which had to be replaced twice last football season.

The recorders are durable, except when dropped on concrete.

Anyway, after a tape has been transcribed, it can be re-used. But I'm hesitant to record over the Keyuo Craver interview conducted for the profile in this yearbook.

I might save the tape because even though the transcription preserves the words, it doesn't carry their energy and enthusiasm. And those qualities are as significant as the words themselves.

The interview could function as a motivational tape. Craver, a senior cornerback from Harleton, Texas, is among the most up-beat members of the Nebraska football team.

"Guys take a natural liking to me," he said during the late-April interview.

There was nothing self-serving or egotistical about his assertion. "That's just my personality," he said. "I like to try to bring out the best in everybody, keep everybody light on their toes and just let them know they don't have to be so hard on themselves, so serious about everything."

"Even though it's just a game and the main objective is to win, you've still got to have fun. And if you're not having fun, then it's going to be real hard for you to get that win."

Craver has handled the rare losses well during his three seasons as a Cornhusker. He's resilient, a stand-up guy who has accepted defeat with character not bitterness, even though you know it bothers him as much as it would anyone who is competitive enough to play without redshirting.

Deep down, successful athletes at this level are not good losers. They can't be. Yet Craver doesn't let it show. "A lot of people say, 'Keyuo, you never worry. You never get down about stuff.' Sometimes I do, but most of the time I try not to," he said. "That's because I'm a strong Christian."

It's also because he doesn't "like to put my problems on other people. I kind of like to deal with things on my own. That's how I've been raised. It's just my personality," he said. "I don't want people feeling sorry for me, and I don't want people to suffer because I'm suffering."

Craver's personality is much more complex, of course, with contradictions that aren't apparent except to the extent he is willing to share them, which he claims he rarely has.

"As up-beat as I am, as out-going as I am, I'm pretty much a loner," he said.

His best friend on the team is junior rush end Demoiné Adams, whom most reporters probably would place on the opposite end of an interview continuum. "Demoiné is quiet,"

said Craver. "He's a very deep, intuitive person. He thinks a lot. That's just his personality. He's a good guy."

"He's just not the type that opens up to people real fast."

Adams, a two-time first-team academic all-conference selection and political science major whose educational goal is law school, "just kind of sits back. He observes things," Craver said.

"As many people as I know, I don't let a lot of people into my life and get close to me. But he's one of the few . . . he's never changed on me. A lot of people come in and out of your life and they change. But he's pretty much been the same the whole time through. He's like my big brother."

The two immediately connected and became roommates during two-a-day practices as true freshmen in the fall of 1998. "We just got to talking about something we had in common, and he got to laughing," said Craver. "He's got this real quirky laugh that can be heard over the whole stadium."

That's a side of Adams reporters don't often see. Craver, by contrast, has a public side and a good-natured frankness that make for good interviews. "If I feel it, I'm going to say it," he said.

He's tempered that attitude since his sophomore year, when something he told a newspaper reporter before a game at Texas didn't come across the way he intended when it was put into print.

The question was whether he was ready to play the Longhorns, and "I think I said something like, 'Whew, yah, I'm ready,'" he said. The story, however, "was like, 'Craver, he's burning and he's ready to show Texas.' And I was like, 'Where did all of this come from?'"

Coach Frank Solich wanted to know where it came from, too.

"He was like, 'I never knew you to be that type of person.' And I'm like, 'Coach, I didn't either. I didn't know I said all of this,'" said Craver. "He said, 'You've got to understand, they're (reporters) going to put more to it than what it is. So you've just got to watch how you word things.'"

"Reporters do a real good job of probing. And if they catch any little glitch, they're going to try to turn it into something that's bigger than it is. So you've got to be on your P's and Q's."

Craver was animated as he recounted the incident. Despite his learned caution, his speech hasn't been stifled. "I'm not going to hold my tongue," he said. "I'm going to say what I want to say."

In that sense, he's unique. "When people ask about me, people that know me, say, 'He's crazy' or 'He's different.' That's a compliment to me. I don't want to be like everybody else."

"I'm no clone. It's kind of cool to be separated from other people."

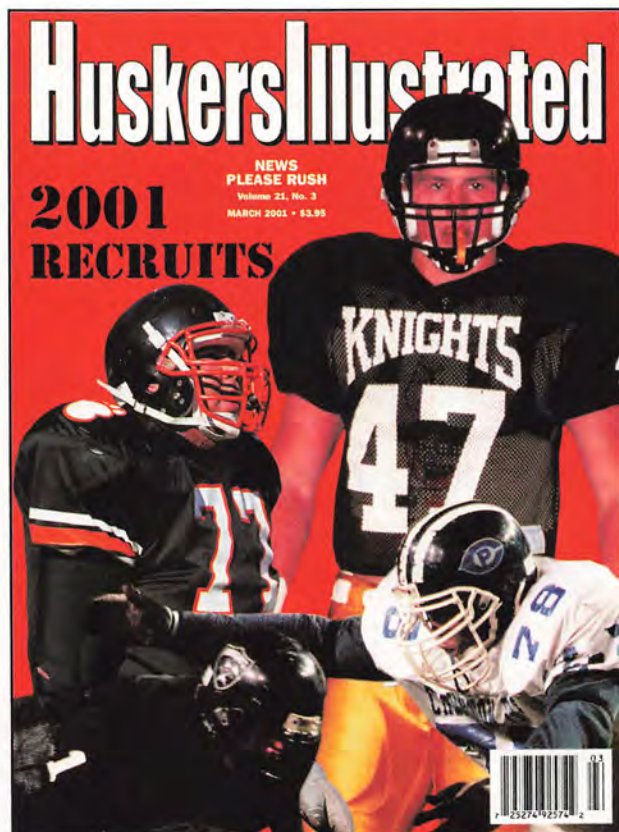
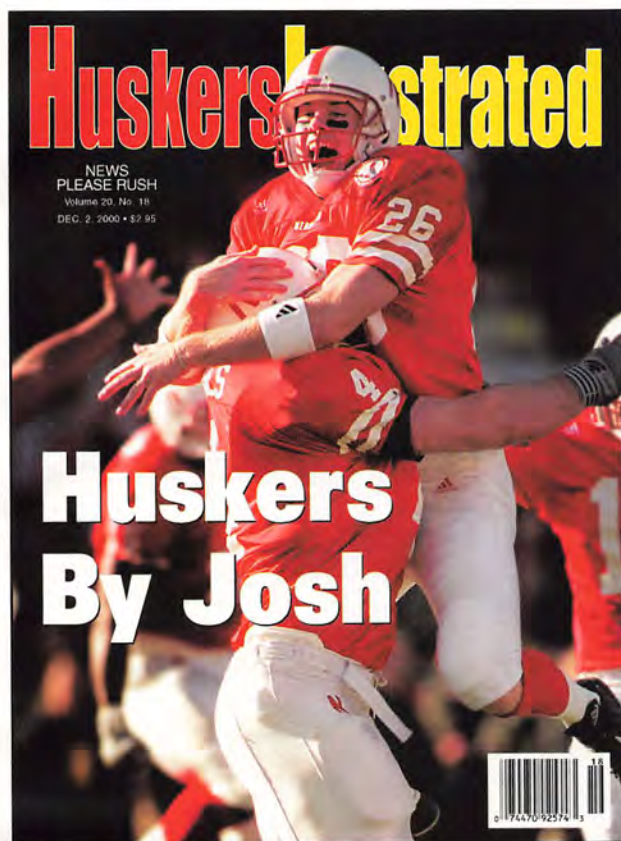
It's also cool to be so up-beat about something that must be taken seriously. Craver still has fun playing football. The hope is, he's identical to his teammates in that sense.

If the Cornhuskers are to make a national title run, football has to be fun. ■



Keyuo Craver has started every game the past two seasons.

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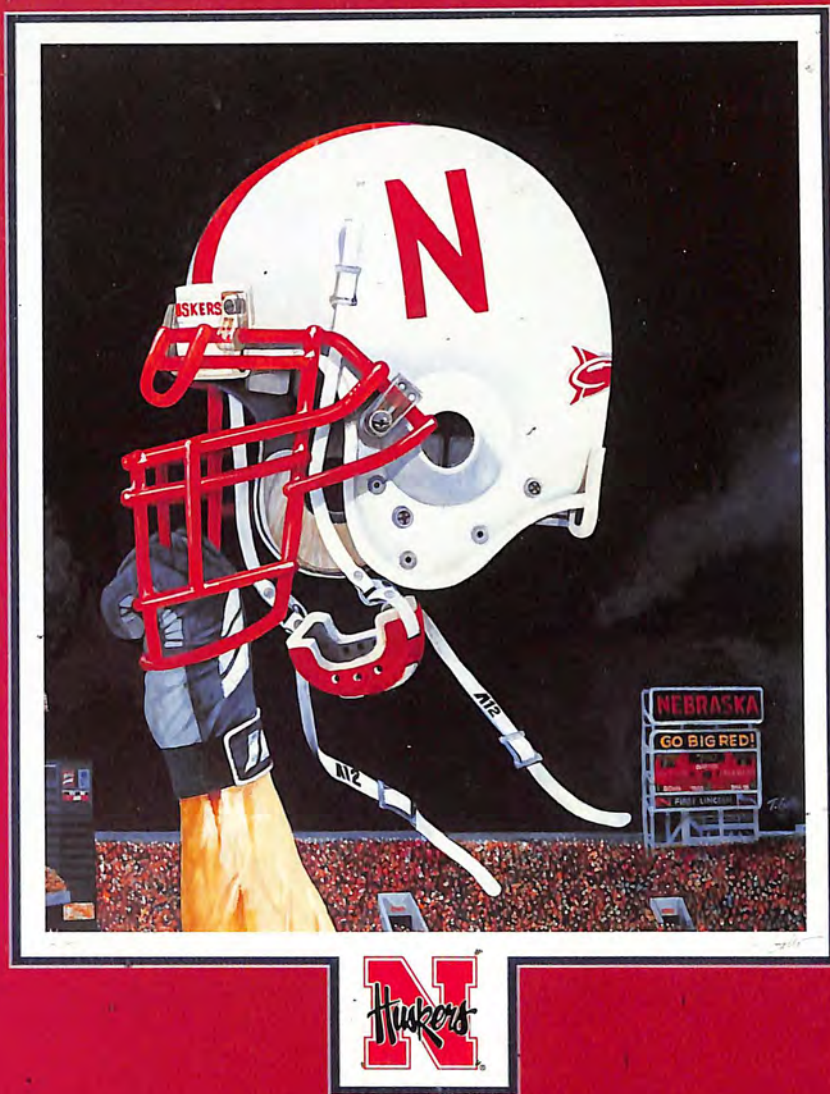
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BIG RED

A Limited Edition Print by Tom Gallo

EDITION SIZE: 950 SIGNED AND NUMBERED

In this print the artist has captured the indomitable spirit of Nebraska Football. Printed on acid-free, heavy weight paper this 21" x 30" (framed) image is signed and numbered by the artist. Matted and framed prints are available with a red on white/blackcore mat handsomely framed in a cherry finish. Detailed to the last stitch!

You will be proud to display your "Big Red" in your home or office. Use the order form or call

1-800-368-2171

(VISA or MASTERCARD)

Matted and Framed: \$169.50
(includes \$15.00 shipping and handling)

Print only: \$85.00
(includes \$10.00 shipping and handling)

BIG RED ORDER FORM

Make checks payable to: **Shenandoah Framing**
215 Greenhouse Rd.
Lexington, VA 24450

Please send me _____ Framed @ \$169.50
_____ Unframed @ \$85.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

VA Residents Add 4.5% Sales Tax

Daytime Phone number _____

OFFICIAL TASTE

"SCORE ON EVERY POSSESSION."

Fairbury Brand hot dogs have the great taste fans love. They're bursting with flavor. Look for the Big Red **F** in your grocer's meat case, and enjoy the official Husker taste with your home team. Fairbury Brand scores every time.



"BEEN KNOWN TO LAUNCH 'EM OUTTA THE STADIUM."

Proud to be the official hot dog at Memorial Stadium and Haymarket Park.

